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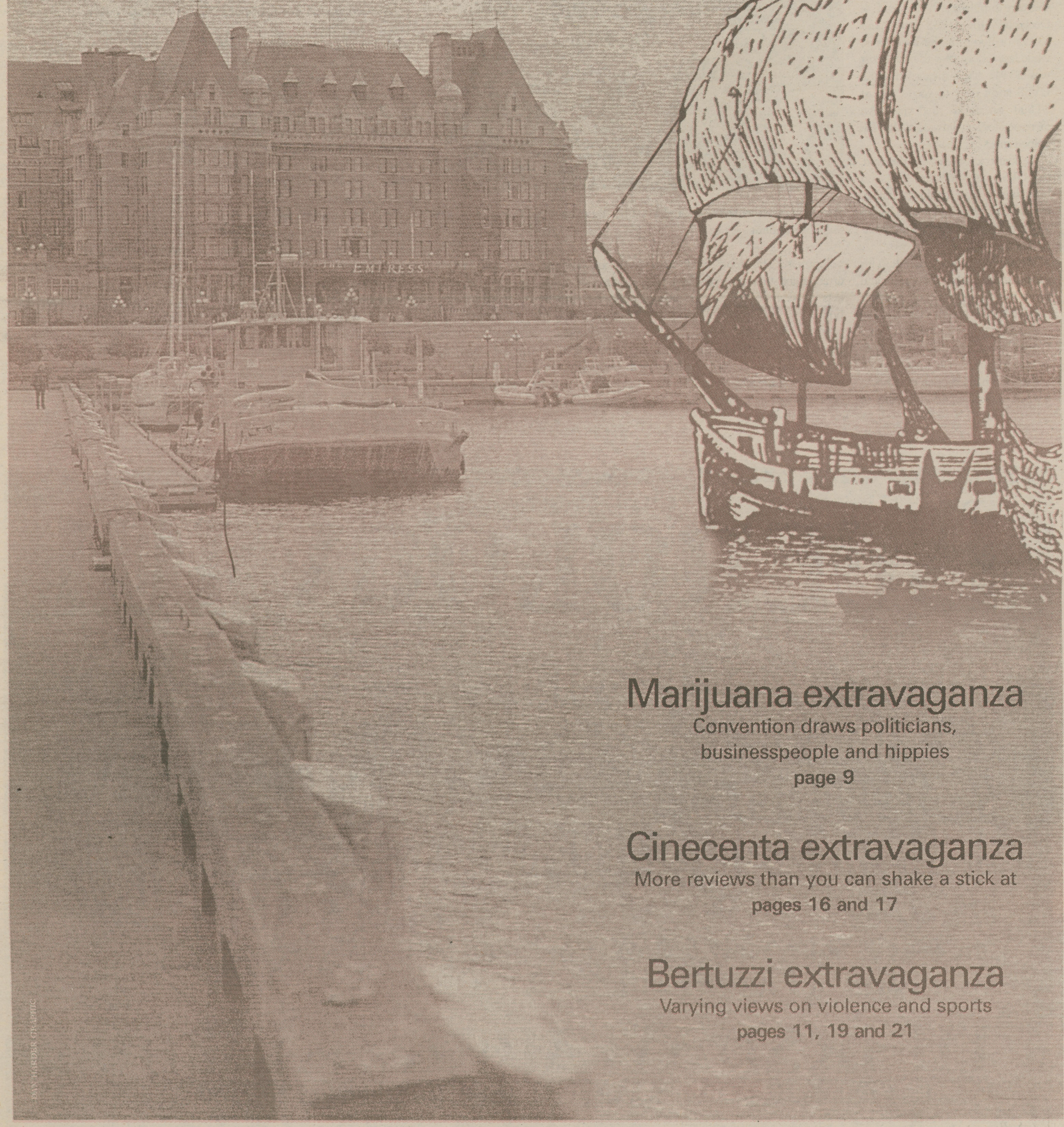
Thursday, March 18, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 26

"One only has to start with Captain Cook looking out over the Inner Harbour, and unpack Victoria from there."

CHALLENGING RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN THE CLASSROOM

pages 12 & 13



DAN HARDER GRAPHIC

Marijuana extravaganza

Convention draws politicians, businesspeople and hippies

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Cinecenta extravaganza

More reviews than you can shake a stick at

pages 16 and 17

Bertuzzi extravaganza

Varying views on violence and sports

pages 11, 19 and 21

UVic food bank triples use

BY JEB GORDON

The UVic Students' Society Emergency Food Bank has seen three times as many people pass through its doors this year. Jude Coates, UVSS chair, points to this as a grim example of how tuition fee increases have affected the ability of many UVic students to buy the basics like food.

"Fundamentally, students shouldn't have to pay for this food bank. There should be no need for food banks in our society," said Joanna Groves, UVSS director of finance, who oversees the food bank.

The increased use of the UVSS food bank has upped the costs to the society and presented food shortage problems. By the end of December, the UVSS had spent $3,195 on food for the food bank, while last school year the total cost was $3,917. This means that the UVSS is on pace to spend almost $4,800 on food this year. An increased fee levy introduced last fall helped meet increasing costs.

To adjust for increased demand, the UVSS also imposed limits on how much food could be taken. Individuals are limited to one bag of food per visit, and families are limited to two.

"We are on the honour system for people to take what they need, and some people were taking like five bags and other people were coming in finding empty shelves," said Groves, when asked about the policy change.

The food bank is open nine hours a week, depending on availability of volunteers. The food bank also arranges for students to pick-up baskets outside of the posted office hours.

"It's a really good service," said Alexa Duwors, a third-year political science student who became interested in volunteering when the student levy was introduced.

Although most food lasts only about two weeks on the shelves, milk, tofu and fresh vegetables all tend to move quickly. "Canned fruit is really popular," said Duwors.

According to Duwors the usage of the food bank increases towards the end of the semester, "when money starts runs out."

NIC HUME PHOTO

Alexa Duwors volunteers at the UVSS food bank and sees it as a valuable student service.

A legal sex trade?

BY HYWEL TUSCANO (CUP)

Sex-trade workers have been stigmatized, demonized, maimed and murdered for far too long, says a longtime advocate for the rights of sex-trade workers.

Jamie Lee Hamilton was drawn into prostitution in 1969 at the age of 14 and has been a witness to much of the activity on Vancouver's streets. Drawing upon experience from her involvement in the queer/transgendered community, activism and the sex trade, she was outspoken about the need for rights for sex-trade workers at a recent conference at UBC.

She is lobbying for the abolishment of a section in the criminal code that prohibits communicating for the purpose of prostitution in a public place and another section that bans the existence or use of common bawdy houses–"any place used for the purpose of prostitution or the practice of acts of indecency." Prostitution itself is legal and is usually propagated through massage parlours or escort services. Hamilton said these codes criminalize sex-trade workers and not those who are actually making the streets dangerous.

"Sex-trade workers are not criminals. Places where workers work should not be criminalized either," she said.

Hamilton admits to running a safe house for sex-trade workers and was charged with running a common bawdy house in August 2000.

"There is nothing common about it," she said in response to the charges.

But there are many opponents to giving rights to sex-trade workers. Groups like the Coalition Against the Trafficking of Women deem prostitution "exploitative of women, regardless of consent."

Hamilton's resolve to eliminate the codes is fuelled by startling statistics and the loss of personal friends.

Between 1985 and 1993 over 63 Vancouver sex-trade workers were murdered. When murderers were caught, their sentences were paltry, she said.

"There was a dramatic increase of the victimization of sex trade workers–just over five a year. If that were happening to any other segment of the population there would be outrage. But because we were sex workers I guess those that were in power thought they could do whatever they wanted to do to us," said Hamilton.

The DTES (Downtown Eastside) Residents' Association realized that many women were going missing in the Downtown Eastside in 1997–1998.

Hamilton filed a Freedom of Information request to the Vancouver Police Department and it was revealed on March 2, 1999 that 22 women had disappeared in one year. A local pig farmer, Robert Pickton, is now facing murder charges for 22 women from the DTES. The DNA of up to 31 women has been found at his Port Coquitlam farm.

While both sides fight for either abolishment or decriminalization, it is very clear that the streets remain dangerous, said Hamilton.

"Sex workers are still very, very vulnerable and still are being victimized," she said.

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IN THE MICHELE PUJOL ROOM, SUB

News briefs

Queers and allies gear up to walk for awareness

The ninth annual Michèle Pujol Walk will take place on March 22 at 1 p.m. in front of the UVic Student Union Building.

The walk is in memory of past women's studies professor Pujol, who introduced a project to her students involving holding hands with the same sex to create queer visibility on campus and to understand how it feels to be the victim of discrimination.

Organizers are calling on those who are queer identified and allies to attend this walk as an act of solidarity to promote visibility, awareness, strength, diversity and unity.

Renowned poet and storyteller Ivan E. Coyote will be performing after the event.

For info contact the UVSS Women's Centre at 721-8353.

–Sarah Petrescu

Students for Change party with BC Liberals

Candidates who ran on the Students for Change slate in recent UVSS elections promised they would take politics out of the students' society, but a party hosted on Monday by the UVic BC Young Liberals raises some questions about campaign promises.

UVic Young Liberal president Dallas Henault sent an e-mail regarding the event, encouraging recipients to "Come and celebrate the victory of Students For Change."

"I think it shows they were being a little deceptive in their campaign," said Joanna Groves, who was victorious over Henault in the race for chair.

Agata Lis, the incoming director of finance who ran on the Students for Change slate, said the celebration, held at Moxies, was "just friends getting together" and that "come May [when her term begins] I'll be splitting the two." She also said that both slates may have overemphasized efforts to take politics out of the Students' Society. "You can't take politics out of peoples' lives," she said.

–Patrick White

Nic Hume photo

UVic Women's Centre Coordinator Rubina Sidhu (left) greets Sharmeen Khan outside the Victoria Police station. Khan and four other representatives from the BC Coalition of Women's Centres were just released after being charged with "assault by trespass" for staging a sit-in at the B.C. legislature building.

Women charged with 'assault by trespass'

Women's Centre advocates arrested at the B.C. legislature after refusing to leave

by Sarah Petrescu

When Sharmeen Khan, former UVic Women's Centre director, walked out of the Victoria Police Station last Friday she met cheers from supportive friends and activists. Khan and four other women representing the BC Coalition of Women's Centres had just been charged with "assault by trespass" after being arrested and handcuffed at the legislature and taken to the police station in a paddywagon.

The five women refused to leave a legislature boardroom after meeting with Ida Chong, Minister of State for Women's and Senior's Services, staging a sit-in when Chong refused to meet their demands. The five called for reinstatement of $1.7 million in core funding to all 37 B.C. women's centres, a meeting with Finance Minister Gary Collins and an increase in crisis funds.

"It was an act of civil disobedience out of total desperation," said Khan. "What does it say when these women, some who have never protested anything in their lives, are willing to get arrested for this cause."

Chong said she was unaware the women had been arrested until later that afternoon because she had to leave the meeting with the five women after half an hour for another meeting at her constituency office in Gordon Head.

"I received calls from the media later that day asking me to comment on what happened, and I had no idea," said Chong.

Chong was surprised the women's visit to the legislature turned awry.

"Our meeting was very polite. I didn't find them discourteous at all," said Chong, who was unwilling to budge on the group's demands nevertheless.

"They wanted me to reverse the decision [to eliminate core women's centre funding] and I indicated I could not. As for meeting with Minister Collins, I can't tell him what to do–that's up to him," said Chong.

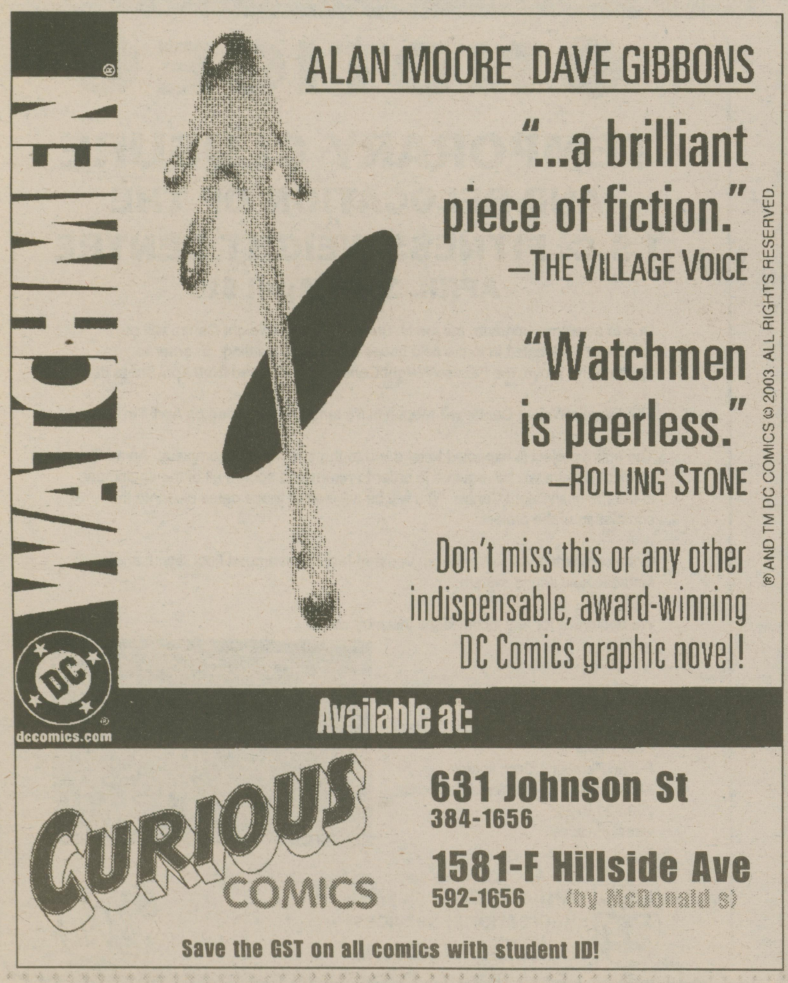
According to Khan, Chong's attitude is indicative of a provincial government that does not care to listen to the needs and wants of women at risk.

"This was the last opportunity we had to meet with the government before the cuts go into effect on April 1. They only gave us half an hour and all we got was a lot of government rhetoric and excuses," said Khan.

"My hope was to have some open and honest discussion with the provincial government. Obviously, Minister Chong did not show any commitment to women's centres at all and the women she represents–despite us making it very clear to her that our supporters have increased significantly over the past few months."

Khan accused Chong of being totally disconnected from the value of women's centres as a frontline resource to core services. Chong said the rationale behind the provincial government's decision to cut funding to women's centres is that they want to prioritize core services. One of the main concerns echoed by harm-reduction and women's-services advocates is that the cuts will eliminate safe channels for women to reach services like transition houses, abuse counselling and other anti-violence measures. Khan said women's centres are necessary for providing referrals to core services and an atmosphere of community women cannot get in other outreach services.

"She [Chong] says women can go to websites or their MLA for information on services. But how many women in at-risk situations will actually do that? They need safe spaces and real people to go to," said Khan.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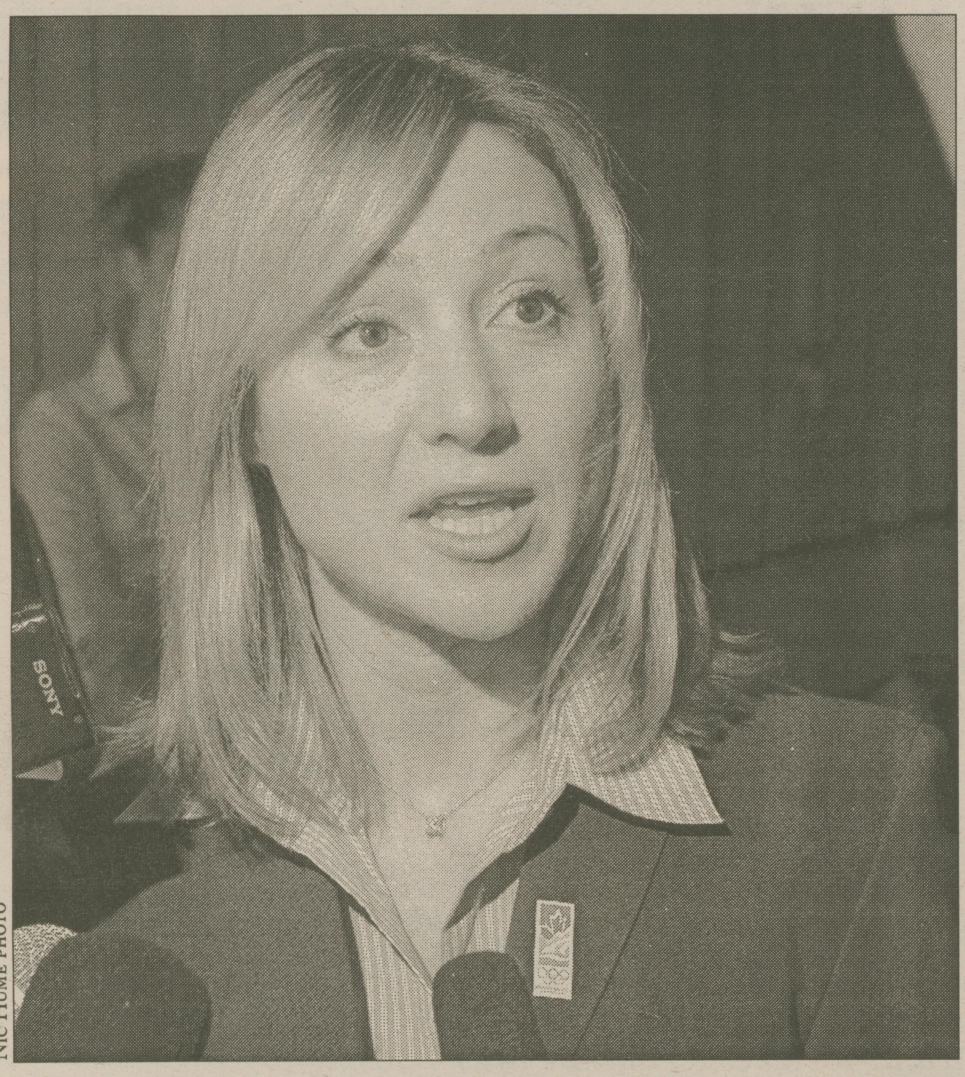

Nic Hume photo

Conservative candidate Belinda Stronach made time to stop in Victoria before wrapping up a 52-day Canadian tour.

by Sarah Petrescu & Patrick White

Curiousity, not politics, drew many attendees to Belinda Stronach's early-morning campaign pep rally in Victoria last week.

The federal Conservative Party candidate stopped off at the Princess Mary Restaurant in Esquimalt to plead for votes and answer questions as part of her 52-day cross-country tour.

"This is the hardest I've ever worked for the least amount of money," said Stronach, former CEO of, and heir to, Magna International, one of the world's largest auto parts manufacturers.

Before entering the restaurant, Stronach was greeted by the Raging Grannies–a group of grandmother activists, dressed in elaborately decorated hats. The grannies sang Stronach a custom song, jabbing at her wealth, conservative ideals and perfect hair. Stronach took the fun-poking gracefully, telling the group, "I think you left out the last verse. You know the one about how I'll be making 'jobs, job, jobs.' "

Impressed by Stronach's cool head, one granny told her they loved seeing a strong woman in politics and that their group supported her. Stronach proudly related the story to the audience inside. "Having the Grannies on our side is definitely good luck," she said, missing or ignoring the sarcastic tone of the Grannies' tune.

Though Stronach twice expressed thanks for the attendance of roughly 20 youths in the crowd, few of them actually planned to support her. Like much of the crowd, many among the youth contingent attended out of curiousity. Third-year political science student Mike Allison said he didn't support Stronach at all.

"Stronach's too easy to criticize," he said. "She doesn't have the experience and she's too tied to big business. With all the scandals in the federal government right now I don't think that's appealing."

UVic Conservative club president Erik Becker said he favoured Stronach's opponent, former Ontario health minister Tony Clements. "He'll be the best at uniting the party," said Becker. "He can speak the language of the east and the west."

Other youths in the crowd were not even members of the Conservative Party.

Stronach has not garnered much publicity for her politics. She has been scrutinized in the media for her looks and fashion sense, and in turn sparked criticism of the media for sexist representation. She has graced the covers of international tabloids as a mysterious romantic interest of former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Stronach's policies are not groundbreaking material, however–which could explain the lack of media attention. She wants to promote technical schools, downsize government and make Canada a leader in international trade.

A poll released the day after her Victoria speech shows Stronach trailing the front-runner, Stephen Harper, by 27 percentage points.

The leadership vote for the Conservative Party–formed from a merger between the Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties–takes place March 20.

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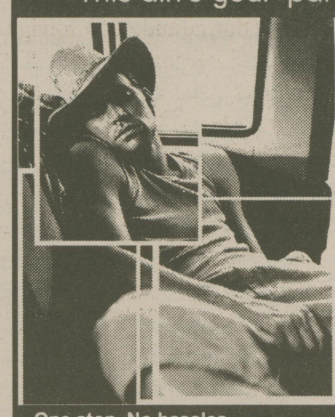

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Refugees speak out

Local refugees and advocates say racism still permeates Canadian society

by Bryna Hallam

"When you think about it, we are all refugees and immigrants," said Pascaline Nsekera, one of several refugee advocates who shared their personal experiences last week at the University of Victoria.

Nsekera came to Canada seven years ago as a student refugee sponsored by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). She left her family behind in war-torn Burundi, a small country in central East Africa.

Before she escaped, Nsekera survived three years in a civil war and 15 months as a refugee in South Africa and Kenya. She said the war shocked her and made her not want to trust life anymore.

"It was a peaceful time when I was growing up," she said. "I never heard a gun being shot. And then there was this distortion of reality to justify what was going on."

Nsekera's decision to leave was not an easy one. "It's a huge, hard thing to do," she said. "To say, 'I'm going to run for my life.' "

When the war broke out, Nsekera was a third-year student at university. After coming to Canada, she studied at UBC and completed her degree in environmental chemistry. She is now married to a Canadian and has her citizenship.

"I've been extremely lucky," she said. "I've been a successful refugee and immigrant. At least, that's the outside, the appearance."

Nsekera is still trying to reconcile her two lives: the emotional trauma of her past and her new life in Canada.

On top of that, she has also had to deal with an underlying racism in Canada.

Nsekera cites her own job for examples. "I've seen criteria for jobs changed after I apply," she said.

Liz Estey photo

Alfred Okot Ochen, a refugee from Uganda, speaks about his experiences to attendees of a workshop on immigrant and refugee rights.

She also said that there are different attitudes towards foreigners in the office.

"There is this attitude that foreigners are stupid because they're different," she said. "But if you are white, you can make mistakes."

"Canadians, on the surface, appear to be very polite," she said. "Racism is there but people hide it."

Alfred Okot Ochen agrees. "The problem is that Canada refuses to acknowledge it is racist," he said. "Racism here is subtle and covert."

Ochen is a refugee from Uganda. Before fleeing to Canada, he lived through an 18-year war, was jailed four times for speaking out against the government, and saw his friends being tortured before they disappeared.

"When I left home," he said, "I thought at least I escaped."

But he calls Canada's refugee application process "another form of torture."

Since arriving here eight months ago, Ochen has been living in limbo. His immigration hearing was in December 2003, and he still doesn't know whether he will be allowed to stay in Canada.

In the meantime, he is not allowed to travel, work or go to school.

Ochen felt the hearing was unjust, saying the people on the committee were naive and knew nothing about the situation in Uganda. He was particularly frustrated by their focus on small details, such as his lack of a postal code and birth certificate.

"What does a postal code have to do with being a refugee?" Ochen said, adding postal codes were not used in Uganda. As for his birth certificate, he says he didn't know he would need it–and was unable to get it anyway, since he was in hiding in the countryside. Refugees–especially known dissidents such as Ochen–are often unable to obtain official documents from their government.

Ochen believes there is a high degree of luck involved with the refugee application process. There is no way to ensure that the people hearing the case will be impartial or informed.

"If justice and freedom prevail, I will get protection from Canada," he said.

Tomoko Okada from the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) has noticed a change since September 11, 2001.

"The refugee protection officers are not there to protect refugees," she said. "They are more focused on identification now. They're not interested in finding out about the case, or about the fear of persecution."

Okada admits it is a complicated situation. The people who decide the fate of refugees like Ochen are political appointees and bring their own cultural baggage to their decisions. In addition, they are not always aware of the situation in other countries.

Of concern to the ICA and other groups is the end of provincial funding for legal aid of refugee claimants. This means that refugees–many of whom speak English as a second language, if at all–will have to go at it alone.

Many believe that Canada is generous to provide a space for refugees. In fact, Canada does not fall within the top ten countries receiving refugees, and in 1998 more than half the refugee claimants in Canada were refused.

"Canada has a commitment to the United Nations to provide a safe place to people who need it," said Okada, "but I think that concept is getting eroded now."

For more information, contact the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group.

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April Griffin has the independent appeal

by John Thompson

When the outcome of the recent UVic Students' society elections was announced two weeks ago, one of the most successful candidates was nowhere to be seen.

April Griffin was at a friend's house, sewing, and didn't realize she garnered more votes than anyone else in the Director at Large race until Sunday, when she called the electoral officer.

"I was really surprised with the results," she said. "I didn't even know if I'd be elected."

As the sole independent candidate elected, Griffin could play an important role next year on a board of directors divided almost evenly between two rival slates. To understand where she stands now, it might be useful to retread the soil she's stood on in the past.

While born in Victoria, Griffin, now 21, spent most of her life in a small town in New Brunswick.

In high school, she helped collect games and clothes for Kosovo refugees staying at a nearby New Brunswickan army base. After graduating, she traveled to Ukraine and spent a summer working at a children's shelter, before enrolling in Russian and sociology at UVic. Since then she has been involved with a myriad of volunteer organizations, including the Red Cross, the World University Service of Canada, the Interfaith Chapel (where she started a forum called "People, Poverty and God" last year) and Iraqi relief groups. She helped the Russian course union fight an external review that threatened the status of Russian Studies as a major program, and she spent last summer volunteering at five different organizations in the downtown eastside of Vancouver. Typical of a class-A overachiever, she says she has only one regret.

"I wish I could be involved more," she said during an interview on Saturday, about an hour before heading over to the Mustard Seed food bank to help make enchiladas and sing during evening entertainment.

So, where does she stand in the divisive world of student politics? Reluctant to either slam existing UVSS policies or jump aboard the reform bandwagon steered by campus conservatives, she says she envisions a more connected UVic campus where students actually recognize the name of UVic President David Turpin and where tuition fee reduction posters are designed by local art students, rather than a well-known Vancouver newspaper cartoonist paid handsomely by the Canadian Federation of Students.

"We at UVic know we have a personality, and a character," she said.

"My goal isn't to put down everything that the UVSS has done in the past, but to improve upon that."

She added that students could be more aware of the broader implications of tuition fee increases.

"It doesn't just mean tuition is going up. It means classrooms are increasing in size and teachers are being overworked," she said. "If people realized that the quality of education is at risk, maybe they'd be more concerned."

Nic Hume photo

Newly elected Director at Large April Griffin ran as an independent and scored more votes than any of her competitors in the UVSS election.

There is one subject Griffin doesn't broach until asked. As campus elections wound down this year, rumours circulated that Griffin was connected to Youth Protecting Youth (YPY), a pro-life club on campus.

"I've never been a member of Youth Protecting Youth. I've never been to one of their meetings," she said when asked, explaining she is roommates with a past president of the club.

"I've never been involved in any movement, but I am pro-life," she added. "It's only recently been something I've really considered."

In November 1999, YPY was stripped of its club status after putting up posters the board felt violated UVSS policy as a pro-choice organization. That spring, hundreds of UVic students attended an annual general meeting where YPY asked to be reinstated as a club. The meeting had to be held outside after Cinecenta was filled to capacity. The motion was defeated, but after threats of legal action by free-speech organizations, the club's official status was eventually reinstated. Griffin is one student who felt the board's treatment of the club was heavy-handed.

"To say, as a students' society, you can't express these beliefs, is an issue," she said.

Griffin says she is committed to protecting life for the same reasons she is committed to fighting poverty and capital punishment. She adds that she never campaigned on a pro-life platform and doesn't expect it will become a focus for her.

"I can only be myself, and I was elected on the basis of my platform. I've never attempted to hide anything. If anyone has any questions, they can ask me," she said, recalling a discussion she had during the election with one student who was pro-choice.

"He still voted for me, even though he was pro-choice."

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Abortion dialogue returns to campus

Presentation today may start of UVic debate anew

BY PATRICK WHITE

After a few years of calm, abortion issues look as if they may reemerge as one of UVic's hot-button issues.

When six members of the Students for Change slate were elected to the UVic Students' Society two weeks ago, they came with the promise to open up the UVSS to marginalized groups. One candidate received an informal endorsement from Youth Protecting Youth, a campus pro-life group who feel past boards have tried to intimidate them.

Katherine Brach, past president of Youth Protecting Youth (YPY), a campus pro-life group, said that current UVSS policies are discriminatory against pro-life students. "I'm hopeful the new board members might change that," she said.

Incoming director of finance Agata Lis said she thinks the overtly pro-choice policies of the UVSS are hypocritical. "I'm not sure why we have that policy in the students' society," she said. "A policy like that marginalizes certain students who do pay student fees."

Lis admits that such groups can step over the line, but she says campus pro-life groups like YPY just "want their voice to be heard within the UVSS. I don't remember any case of them (YPY) pushing for something that violated human rights. How can you criticize the other side when you don't even give them a voice?"

Pam Manhas with the Pro-Choice Action Network believes there's nothing wrong with UVSS pro-choice policies. She is helping organize a presentation on campus today that reacts to certain pro-life campaigns, particularly the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP), a pro-life organization that travels to university campuses with billboards depicting victims of genocide and aborted fetuses with the intention of equating the two. Though GAP will not appear at UVic, it will be displaying at UBC, McGill, Concordia and a number of other Canadian universities on March 17–18.

Manhas said, "There is blatant racism and anti-semitism" in the GAP campaign.

She said that her event will "equip pro-choicers with the argument and ideas for debunking the stigma around being pro-choice and how equal access to abortion programs is vital for all women."

The presentation, entitled "Beating Back the Bull: Refuting the Myths About Abortion," will feature two speakers from the Pro-CAN head office.

Brach doesn't support GAP either, but she says there should be a place for their side of the dialogue on campus. She would rather pro-life and pro-choice not be pitted against one another. "They feel threatened by us, and we feel intimidated by them," she said. "Open dialogue would be much more beneficial. We should be talking about where we agree more than where we disagree," said Brach, using the example of campaigning for women's services.

Though abortion issues in Canada have faded behind other hot-button social issues like legalizing marijuana and same-sex marriages, Manhas maintains that abortion should remain in the public conscience because "All women are faced with a stigma over abortion."

"The fact that GAP can even get onto campuses when they compare abortionists to Nazis and the KKK shows that a woman's right to choose is still under threat," she added.

Manhas, who has a seat on the UVSS board as Women's Centre representative, doesn't expect that the recent board shake-up will affect its pro-choice stance. "We have an extremely healthy opposition this year, but their prospects of overturning policy are not good." Manhas pointed out that the sitting Putting Student First Slate will maintain a majority of board positions.

"Beating Back the Bull" will take place March 18 at 6 p.m. in the small side of the Michèle Pujol room.

NIC HUME PHOTO

Pam Manhas with the Pro-Choice Action Network is hosting the presentation, "Beating Back the Bull: Refuting the Myths About Abortion."

Sweatshops not welcome at 2010 games

BY FORD WALKER

An international campaign against apparel produced by sweatshop labour has brought into question the ethical standards of the Olympic games, including the winter games scheduled for 2010 in Vancouver.

Oxfam, an international group focused on poverty relief, along with the Trade Union Congress (TUC) of the U.K. and Labour Behind the Label, recently began a campaign entitled Play Fair at the Olympics that will lobby for new restrictions requiring ethical sportswear in the Olympics. Closer to home, the campaign is being supported by the Canadian subsidiary of Oxfam, as well as the Maquila Solidarity Network and the Canadian Labour Congress.

The issue garnered recent attention in B.C. with anticipation growing for the 2010 Winter Olympics to be held in Vancouver. The groups have put pressure on the only confirmed manufacturer of 2010 Olympics products, Roots Canada, who they claim employs workers outside of international labour standards.

Sam Corea, the communications director for Vancouver's 2010 gaming committee, said that "during the bid phase, we made a commitment to three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social and economic." Currently, the 2010 gaming committee is responsible for handling the sponsors of the coming Olympics and are entrusted with finding sponsors who meet these requirements.

The campaign kick-off coincided with the release of an Oxfam report that says labourers producing some Olympic apparel are subject to 16-hour days, fired for refusing overtime and intimidated for attempting to form unions. Asserting that the Olympics are "supposed to be a showcase for fairness and human achievement," TUC general secretary Brendan Barber said that "the sportswear industry is violating that spirit by exploiting and abusing workers rights."

Other major targets of the campaign include Puma, Fila, Mizuno and Asics sportswear, who all reportedly rely on sweatshop labour in countries such as Thailand, China, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Cambodia and Turkey.

To find out more about the campaign, visit www.maquilasolidarity.org/campaigns/olympics/.

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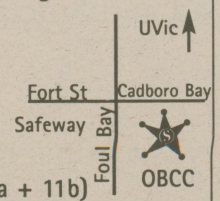

Microsoft is 'Nietszche.net'

UVic prof argues insight of dead philosophers needed to avoid technological doom

by Daniel Saunders

A UVic professor believes that new technology has put the future of humanity in jeopardy, and only a trio of old-school philosophers can make sense of what is happening to us. Friedrich Nietszche, Karl Marx and Martin Heidegger, though they lived between 50 and 150 years ago, turn out to have crucial insights into the age of the Internet and the Human Genome Project.

"It's good to read them not as speakers from the past, but as speakers from the future," said Arthur Kroker, the political science professor behind books such as *Digital Delirium* and *Hacking the Future*. His latest book, *The Will to Technology and the Culture of Nihilism*, was launched last week with a lecture at the new Pacific Centre for Technology and Culture.

Kroker sees a crisis in the wake of digital age innovations. Of genetically modified crops and eventual human cloning he said, "We're about to throw the species away, create a successor species, without any public discussion."

The book's title is a variation on Nietzsche's *The Will to Power* (1901), in which Nietzsche described a state of complete skepticism about values and purpose, where the only thing left is a drive towards some–usually destructive–goal. Kroker sees this at work in corporations striving only to improve their quarterly bottom line.

In Kroker's view, Microsoft is "the leading contemporary expression of the will to will. Microsoft is Nietzsche.net."

Nietzsche said in *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887), "our whole attitude towards nature, the way we violate her with machines and the heedless inventiveness of our technicians and engineers is hubris." However, it was left to Heidegger in books such as *The Question Concerning Technology* (1953) to connect Nietzsche's criticism with the 20th century sense of technological inevitability, and provide a metaphysical basis to discuss how it changes us. "Martin Heidegger is the theorist par excellence of the digital future," Kroker said.

In a third section of *The Will to Technology*, Kroker argues that Marx's theories of the circulation of capital are more relevant than ever, in a time when "capitalism has suddenly and irreversibly speeded up beyond necessary production, beyond necessary consumption." He points to the Bill Gates' book, *Business at the Speed of Thought*, as a frightening end-point of the logic of capitalism augmented by technology, making what Kroker calls "streamed capitalism." According to Kroker, streamed capitalism is multinational and monopolistic, hijacking the potential of electronic culture to channel our money into the pockets of fewer and fewer companies.

At his book launch, an audience member asked what practical actions he proposes. "Do you plan to go down to the biotech department and tell them to knock it off?"

In response, Kroker mentioned his upcoming speech at a biotechnology forum. There, he said, he will "just really try to follow Heidegger and say how do we make a moral framework. . . . What I'd like to do in the coming year is to address this closed universe of ethical discourse on biotech in Canada."

Despite his concerns about how technology may be changing us for the worse, Kroker finds hope in the anti-globalization movement and in how technology is reappropriated and redefined by artists and ordinary people alike. The website he runs with his wife Marilouise Kroker, ctheory.net, features artwork in hypertext and flash that challenges the sterile utility of so much of the web. One, called NetNoise, plays various unusual ambient sounds, including the sound of the server it is running on.

"The most radical thing you can do is to provide a new way to understand technology," said Kroker.

The Pacific Centre for Technology and Culture has been dedicated to interdisciplinary discourse since it opened in January. It has hosted a series of guest lectures called "Electronic Theory: Science, Terror & Nihilism," which included William Leiss of the University of Calgary speaking on "The Cultural Politics of Bio-genetics."

Nic Hume photo

UVic professor Arthur Kroker with one of the large video-conferencing screens in the Pacific Centre for Technology and Culture: "We have to figure out how we can think about technology as profoundly as possible."

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Talking about toking

Cannabis convention draws businessmen, politicians and the odd hippy

BY SARAH PETRESCU

Canabonds, hemp theme parks and government-issue Maui Wowie–these are not just the products of pothead daydreams anymore. Victoria's fifth annual Cannabis Convention brought hemp and marijuana advocates together for more serious things than a 4:20 toke.

The legal battle for the bud, industrial hemp franchisement and expansion of medicinal marijuana rights topped the agenda for the one-day convention at Camosun College last Sunday.

At first glance, the 100-person gathering had all the qualities one would expect at a marijuana-themed convention. Pony-tailed beatniks, marijuana leaf cutouts, patchouli-scented air and a hippy covering Peter Tosh's "Legalize It" set the tone while self-conscious college students and the odd business-type speckled the crowd.

Although the feel was casual, the agenda of the convention targeted future issues and opportunities emerging if Canada legalizes marijuana. In 2001, Canada became the first country to legalize medicinal marijuana. The following year, a Senate committee on illegal drugs recommended general legalization of cannabis, and last month the federal Liberals introduced Bill C-10, which would decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana if passed.

Ted Smith, founder of campus club *Hempology 101 and the Cannabis* Buyer's club, organized the conference and is already gearing up for legalization. His *Canabonds* are $25 certificates promising shareholders a quarter-ounce of "quality cannabis" once marijuana is made legal. Smith uses funds raised from the bonds for legal fees and advocacy work.

"This is a movement I am passionate about. I also have a lot at stake and that drives me to put my self fully into it," said Smith, who has been arrested four times and battled six trafficking charges.

SARAH PETRESCU PHOTO

***Carol Pudwell* (left) browses through marijuana literature with Hempology 101 representative Marie Christofferson.**

In the nine years Hempology 101 has been active, Smith said he has seen a huge increase in acceptance towards marijuana use. Although he is legally banned from the UVic campus for distributing pot cookies and sharing joints, Smith stays connected with club organizers.

"People used to be cautious about coming to meetings. But at one point last year, we were getting 120 people to our meetings, right in the middle of the campus," said Smith, referring to the club's notorious 4:20 meetings in front of the UVic library.

"My thing is education about cannabis. Universities and colleges are places where people are already primed to learn and looking for movements they care about," said Smith.

Smith said he focuses his activist efforts at universities and colleges because he knows they are breeding grounds for future community leaders.

One cannabis-friendly community leader is Brian Taylor, editor of *Cannabis Health Magazine*, a former mayor of Grand Forks and keynote speaker at the conference. Taylor has a long history of marijuana advocacy in B.C., in particular as the leader of the Marijuana Party when they garnered 500,000 votes in the 2001 provincial election and succeeded in running a candidate in every riding.

"To some people in my hometown I'm a resident hero and to others I'm a damn embarrassment–worse than naked Doukahbours," said Taylor.

Taylor now focuses his advocacy on medicinal marijuana. A few years ago, his chest was crushed when a barrel landed on him. He said marijuana relieved his pain and helped him heal faster.

"My doctors couldn't believe how quickly I improved and how under control my pain was," said Taylor .

Taylor is convinced that the federal acceptance of medicinal marijuana will lead to general legalization of the plant. He thinks the government should contract more growers to provide selection to medicinal marijuana users and prevent them from the burden, and liability, of growing marijuana themselves.

"We already have ground on this front. Medicinal marijuana is the door we need to go through because Health Canada wants to work with us on this," said Taylor.

Another speaker at the conference is looking to cash in on the legalization of marijuana. Brian Johnson, president of Transglobal Hemp Products Corp., wants industrial hemp products to become a leading industry on Vancouver Island.

A former land development consultant, Johnson spent three-and-a-half years studying ghost towns on Vancouver Island for investors who wanted to buy abandoned commercial properties.

"I began to see some real opportunities for industrial hemp products, especially since our forest and fishing industries are falling apart," said Johnson.

Ten years ago, Johnson delved full-time into his company. Beyond industrial hemp products such as clothing, food and fuel, Johnson wants to promote hemp-seed factories as tourist attractions–kind of Hempland theme parks. He also has a movie script optioned about a young boy's discovery of an antique hemp seed-processing machine.

"Industrial hemp has limitless possibilities and it is extremely environmental. I want to make money for Vancouver Island–following the rules of government, because if cannabis does become legal in the future, we want them on our side."

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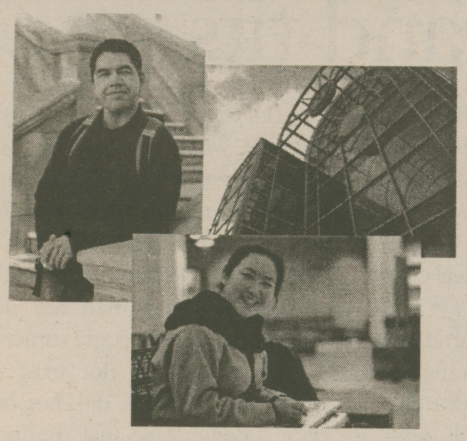

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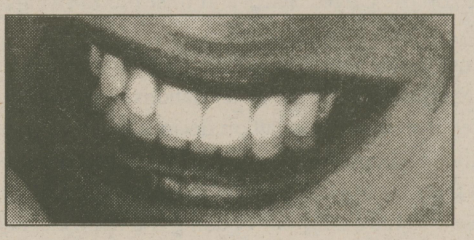

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EDITORIAL

Canada in the Caribbean?

Have you heard about the potential for a new territory or province in this oversized country of ours? No, the Northwest Territories are not dividing once again. This would be a completely new addition to the country–something that hasn't been done since Newfoundland-Labrador joined back in 1949. If it happened, Canada would suddenly have a tropical province only 250 km east of Cuba.

The islands in question bear the singular names of Turks and Caicos. Currently, Turks and Caicos is an overseas British territory, but the locals have expressed in the past a strong desire to sever their ties with Britain and form an alliance with Canada. The debate has waxed and waned for over three decades, and it appears that there is still no answer. It comes and goes, and the issue has been resurrected for this generation to mull over.

Presumably, Canada has not yet allowed Turks and Caicos to join because we don't want to send a message to the rest of the world that we're entering the business of colonial expansion. Even though the annexed territory wants to join, it's apparently not good global manners to let them.

There are certainly advantages to having a tropical province in a temperate and arctic nation. Imagine being able to take a domestic flight to a tropical location during the blustery heart of the winter without having to deal with currency exchanges, customs or passport applications. This is the most widely toted advantage Canadians hear.

Turks and Caicos will also benefit out of the deal. We would be able to supply tourists to boost their tourism driven economy. They would receive national representation from a government that already shares a time zone with them. They're not even horribly far from Ottawa either. They're actually closer to the nation's capital than Victoria.

There would be mutual benefits for all of the parties. The way they are talking it is a win-win deal. However, nobody has been touting the negatives of annexation.

Turks and Caicos has frequent hurricanes, and taxpayers would be asked to foot the bill for hurricane relief just as they have for mad cow disease, B.C.'s forest fires, and many other natural disasters.

There is also the risk that annexation would cause an ecological disaster on the islands. Turks and Caicos is smaller than Prince Edward Island. In fact, the entire region is only about three times the size of Greater Victoria. Every tourist that sets foot on the islands uses resources, and there may not be enough to go around.

Turks and Caicos would become a province almost entirely reliant on the tourism industry. A recession would hurt them more than the east coast fisheries collapse did to the Maritimes. However, its location may open the possibility of more trade with South America and reduce our dependence on the United States and their mood swings.

Canada is not in the habit of practicing expansionism, and definitely not to the degree that some of the other nations of the world can be accused of. However, if an entire population decides that they want to join, shouldn't they be permitted? It's not as if we have taken our military and conquered them, or applied political pressure on them to get them to join. We seem to have a history of doing the opposite, in fact.

The government of Canada has been approached on two previous occasions regarding a closer tie with Turks and Caicos and both times, we shot them down. Or, more accurately, the esteemed leader of the very large chin, Mulroney, shot them down. Behind closed doors no less, and without any public input. Sounds like the BC Liberals with the Working Forest legislation, doesn't it? But we digress.

Maybe it's time for a referendum. Ask the peoples of both places what they think and then act on the results whether for or against. Surely, in the long run, it's cheaper to definitively decide the issue than it is to have it continue as a recurring debate by overpaid politicians in the House.

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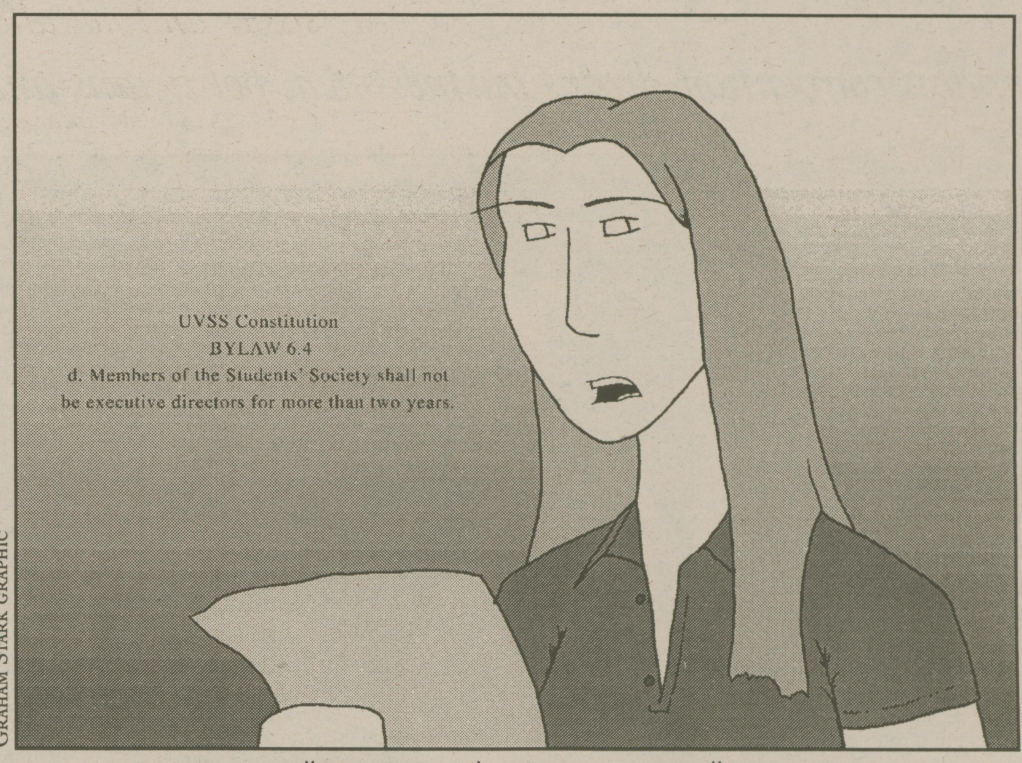

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Well, I think it's kind of a grey area."

Joanna Groves can't count

BY JOHN THOMPSON

What planet does Joanna Groves live on?

Not Earth, if we're to take her interpretation of the two-year limit on how long students' society executives can stay in power seriously.

The UVSS bylaws clearly state, "Members of the Students' Society shall not be executive directors for more than two years." Groves first became an executive when she was promoted to director of services in Dec. 2002. She was elected as director of finance the following year. That means, according to Earth time, her time as chairperson-elect expires at the end of this November.

By her own explanation, the real purpose of the bylaw is to prevent any one person from holding power perpetually. "I think it's a grey area," she said earlier when asked. As a fellow English literature geek, Groves should know that's what snooty academics refer to as an intentional fallacy–that is, our own speculations about the author's motivations are beside the point. When bylaw 6.4d says "two years," we might believe the author really meant, "no longer than three years," but that sounds more like wishful thinking than logical inference. Besides, this isn't poetry we're tearing apart here. What exactly is grey about "two years"? My calender says that's 730 days.

Her reasoning isn't just shoddy, it's plain out of this world. Which got me thinking:

- If Joanna was a Martian, she could clutch the reins of power for 1,374 days–providing she did so from the red planet.
- And why stop there? Let's send Groves further from the sun and towards the gas giant Jupiter, where some scientists speculate that its oceanic moon Europa could sustain life. From there, she could rule over the student union from afar for over 23 years.
- But I've always thought Groves' chilly frown would suit the climate of Pluto, where she could stay on for a whopping total of 496 years.

If this sounds silly, well, it is. But so is claiming that "two years" should read anything other than two years. Our newly-elected board members should hold her accountable to the same constitution and bylaws that their own authority arises from. Otherwise, what credibility will our students' society have past November, when our spokesperson only has an illegitimate claim to her title?

A down-to-earth solution would be to change the bylaw, which would require a majority vote at the annual general meeting this fall. This could be more difficult than it sounds, since most years there aren't enough students who attend to make quorum–the minimum number required to do business. In other words, if not enough students care to show up for the fall meeting, Groves' window of opportunity to officially extend her position will have passed.

Suddenly, apathy among students takes on an astronomical importance. Forget about the electoral race against Dallas Henault–this will be the real test to see if students stand behind Groves.

If she fails, I have a suggestion. Let's modify those much-maligned cartoons of Gordon Campbell riding a tuition-fee rocket and paste Grove's face over top. We'll launch our chairperson back to Mars, where her legitimate title resides.

Seeing past cocks and tits

BY MITCH LEBLANC

I was walking between classes the other day and caught myself looking at the person in front of me. It took me a moment to realize that this person was female, and the thought went through my head that she was "dressed like a boy" in her hoody and baggy pants.

I'm not sure how it came to be that we differentiate between men and women based on the clothes they wear. It's really kind of silly. It perpetuates the sexist ideology that we have all painstakingly come to recognize exists.

By making a very clear distinction between the clothes that each gender wears, we subconsciously reinforce the idea that there is a distinct difference that should be recognized. It goes beyond the mere physical differences between the bodies to encompass gender identity–our clothes say much more about us than we realize. They are a statement of our individuality and our sense of self. With clothing we can express which social grouping we feel that we should or do belong too.

As the ages pass, we are starting to see more "gender bending" going on: guys who walk around in skirts and paint their toenails, and gals who shave their heads and bare their snake and crossbones tattoos with pride.

For some reason, clothing designers have not yet realized that they are perpetuating sexism by enhancing the bulges and sex organs on both genders which, to me, says that men are cocks, women are tits, and that this is all that they are.

Well, I suppose that there is unisex, but the marketing on that concept seems to have fallen off of the edge of the world.

Certainly we have come a long way since we lived in caves and bashed prey and each other over the heads with clubs. Today women are no longer expected to be baby-making machines, and men are not expected to be sole income earners.

Gender roles may not exist as strongly as they once did, but our society is designed so that we don't seem quite able to eliminate them entirely from our thoughts, and thus our actions. Everyone is guilty of it.

Change does not come easily, that is guaranteed. But it won't come at all if we don't make an effort to recognize our thought patterns that perpetuate and accentuate the anatomical differences between people.

Think about that next time you see someone on the street and make an assumption about their gender based on the clothes they wear.

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Clarifying sexual orientation fallacies

'Not all gay men are sissies and not all lesbians are butch dykes'

BY JAMES TIEN

In 2003, Canada witnessed a beautiful chapter being written in its history.

An overdue justice was served. This justice allows everyone to be treated equally, irrespective of sexual orientation. Such an act, even coming late, is something in which all Canadians should take pride. However, I am not writing today to repeat the facts about the legalization of same-sex marriage, but to express some personal queer viewpoints to explain and hopefully clear certain misconceptions many straight people might have.

I've heard some of my straight male friends say that they are scared of going to gay bars or being around queer people because they think they might get hit on. Well, an excellent rule of thumb that applies in this situation is to check first if you get hit on in straight bars. If you don't, there is a good chance that you won't be hit on at a gay bar either. The fact of the matter is even if you do get hit on, you can always turn your back on it, and you should definitely take it as a compliment.

I am not trying to encourage straight men to go to gay bars here. It doesn't make a bit of difference to me. I just find this type of backward, conceited mentality a little absurd.

What also concerns me is that homosexuality is often equated to HIV/AIDS. Needless to say, HIV is a virus transmitted typically during sexual intercourse through the exchange of bodily fluids. Everyone having unprotected sex is at high risk of being infected. Many people in the queer community, being considered the high-risk group, are especially conscious of this issue and receive HIV and other STD tests regularly. Such an educated and responsible choice might increase detected HIV cases among the queer community. It certainly is something that should be praised and recognized, as opposed to those who continue to have sex and infect others unknowingly. And a large portion of people that belong to the latter group, of course, include people outside the queer community. An example of the blatant manifestation of such stereotypes is that Canadian Blood Services does not allow gay men to give blood.

Last but not least, not all gay men are sissies and not all lesbians are butch dykes. Did you just notice how many things were wrong in the opening sentence of this paragraph? Sure, referring to gay men as effeminate and lesbians as butch are the typical stereotypes, but the mistakes rest in the implication that guys should not be effeminate and girls should not be butch. Many social norms were constructed to provide a set of guidelines long before we were born. It is our responsibility to realize how much time has passed and that many of these norms are no longer appropriate for the world we live in today.

It is exciting to be living in a place that chooses to evolve with the rapidly changing world. The legalization of same-sex marriage proves that Canada has the capacity for tolerance, understanding and diversity. Don't be afraid to celebrate the similarities, embrace the differences and face up to the fears to change and excel. Finally, the hell with Bush's barbaric attempt to seek constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

Bertuzzi should face criminal charges

'It's time the NHL got out of their lawless Wild West mode'

BY JEB GORDON

The NHL has a problem, and it's not Todd Bertuzzi. He's just a symptom.

The NHL thinks it lives in a special vacuum where the Wild West still exists. They seem to think that they can use frontier justice to police themselves. But the justice coming from Colin Campbell, the NHL's executive vice-president and director of hockey operations, just isn't working. Campbell doesn't strike fear into the hearts of players. He is not seen as a hanging judge. Instead he is seen as just, fair and rationale. That approach won't change player's malicious, irresponsible behaviour.

The whole problem actually predates Campbell and goes back to 1988. It started with then Minnesota North Star Dino Ciccarelli. Nobody in the NHL is talking about that incident right now because it strikes too close to the point. Bertuzzi's behaviour is not unique. For those that don't remember, Ciccarelli speared and then fought the Leaf's Luke Richardson. Richardson pressed charges and Ciccarelli got to spend a night in a Toronto jail.

Ciccarelli is number 38 on the NHL all-time points list with 1,200 points. And his barbaric actions in 1988 caused the NHL to reprimand spearing with a five-minute major penalty and an automatic game-misconduct. Spearing quickly left the game.

Outside the hockey rink, this would never be tolerated. Not only are there criminal implications to such senselessly violent acts, there are also civil. What this means in practical terms is that if you behaved like a hockey player does while in a bar on a Saturday night, you'd be dragged off to jail. If you caused any serious harm you would be sued for damages in addition to the criminal charges. And unlike Bertuzzi, no one would feel sorry for you because you would deserve what you got and be considered responsible for your own actions.

The dilemma in 1988 is the same as one faced now–what behaviour have the players consented to? The limits on the behaviour of consenting adults are not the same as those generally prescribed by law. This is always a touchy subject and the players and the league have chosen to close ranks. They are saying that this is hockey, or in other words, that this behaviour is what we consider acceptable in hockey.

The NHL decided that Steve Moore elbowing Markus Nasland was within the rules of hockey, even though upward blows to the jaw are the main source of concussions for players. Players then by the NHL's position have consented to the possibility of being elbowed in the head.

What makes Moore's actions any different from Bertuzzi's? The idea that Naslund consented to being hit in the head is just as ludicrous as saying that Moore did with Bertuzzi. Neither did and neither should have been subjected to the resulting injuries.

From a fan's perspective I don't like fighting. If I wanted pugilism, I would watch boxing. Boxers at least know how to fight fair, but I chose not to because I don't find it entertaining. I watch hockey for goal scoring and spectacular saves. The ever-expanding injuries in hockey take away from what I enjoy: hockey.

It's time the NHL got out of their lawless Wild West mode and started laying down the law. Nothing would have gone as far as it did if the NHL was stricter with disciplining rogue actions.

There seems to be no debate about whether Bertuzzi was right or wrong, just whether it was criminal. I think it should be.

Letters

BC Liberals are accountable

Dear Editor,

In her article "In Search of Bond," Sarah Petrescu says that the B.C. provincial government "has continuously failed to be accountable and accessible." It is very easy to just say this but it is also misleading. Government in this province is more accountable than ever before in a number of ways.

First of all, we all know exactly when the next provincial election will be–May 17, 2005. B.C. is the only province in Canada to have fixedelection dates. Elections are the ultimate way of holding government accountable. Related to this is the Citizens' Assembly, the first of its kind in Canada, where a group of randomly selected, ordinary citizens are reviewing possible changes to our first-past-the-post electoral system.

Their proposals will end up going to the people of this province in a referendum so that we can decide for ourselves what kind of democratic system we want. It isn't everyday that we see a government do this.

Every ministry has a three year service plan that is available for the public to see, so that we can know for ourselves whether they are doing what they said they would do, without having to blindly accept the criticisms of government from an Opposition looking to score political points. Take a look for yourselves.

While no government does absolutely everything that we want, I think that this one has gone further than any previous government in being accountable to the public. That is definitely a good start.

Kenan Murseli

Evans election effort applauded

Dear Editor of *the Martlet*,

I want to thank Neal Evans for running in the last election. He would have made a very good Director at Large, and I'm personally disappointed that he lost.

Although Neal ran on a strictly conservative slate, I know him to be a very open-minded and caring person who would've sincerely done his best to represent the views of all students. In fact, I knew several candidates on the Putting Students First slate that were secretly rooting for him, and I hope he won't take this latest political slight as a cue to step out of student politics.

Jan A. Grauman Neander
Former Director of Communications-UVic NDP

The Martlet kills trees too

Dear *Martlet*,

Missing, I think, from this well-intentioned editorial (March 11 issue), was any admission of responsibility for "clear cut moonscapes" from *the Martlet*.

How many *Martlets* are dumped, unread, into recycling bins on campus and around Victoria? Hundreds? Thousands? I'm not suggesting the *Martlet* staff should, "grow dreadlocks and hug trees," but perhaps you could better tune production runs to minimize the level of waste generated each week.

Hey, you might not even have to, as you say, "[c]ough up a few extra cents to buy recycled paper," if production cost savings are directed to increasing recycled fiber content.

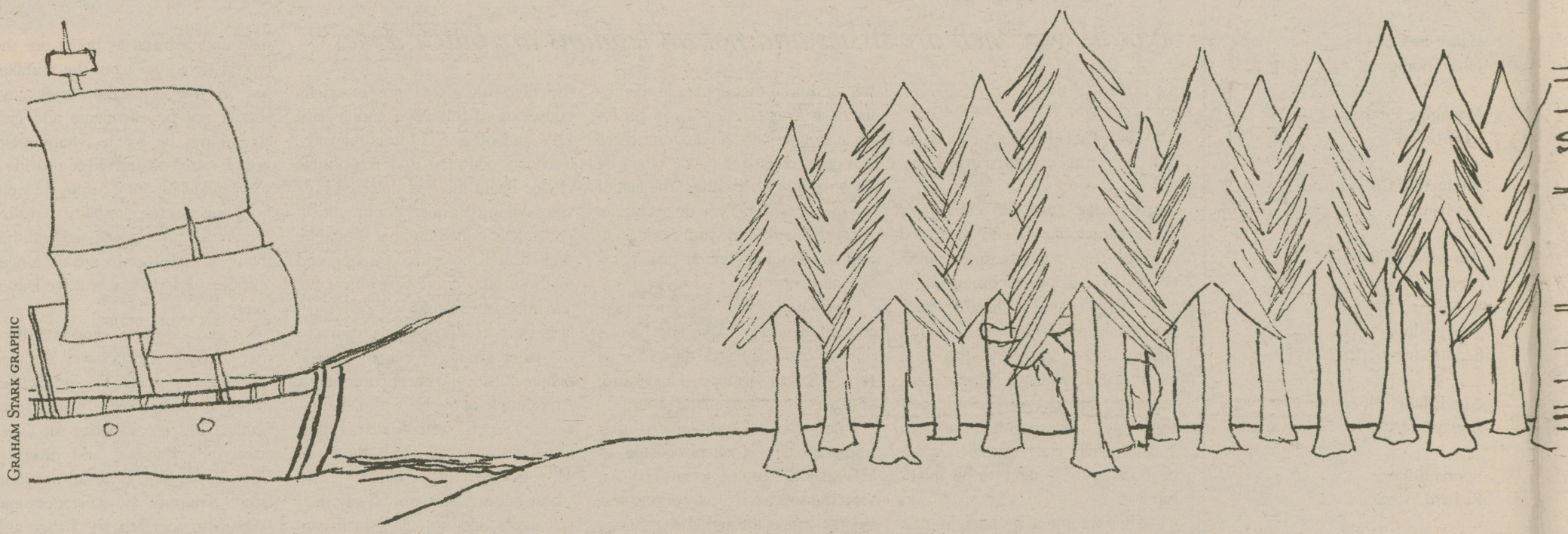
After all, it's not just the students that need to burden the responsibility.

P.S. There's no truth to the rumour that the *Martlet's* production runs are kept excessively high to make advertisers think the newspaper is more popular than it actually is . . . is there?

Joel Skrepnek

Editor's note:

Pick-up of the Martlet *varies weekly. Two weeks ago only 50 copies of the paper were not distributed.* The Martlet *has an agreement with the UVSS to produce enough copies of the paper each week to supply half of the undergraduate student body.*



Graham Stark graphic

Challenging racism and colonialis

by Danielle Gauld and Lisa Helps

"And there's always that little section in classes where they talk about immigration or ethnicity. And people say all this stuff as though we're not even in the room. But what they're saying is about me, it's about my family. I want to leave the classroom or stand in front with something written on my forehead and say 'you're talking about me. Talk to me.' "

–Setareh

The dinner party

They said it was like being invited to a murder mystery party. They received somewhat vague letters requesting their presence at dinner on a Friday night. Mysteriously, these letters did not reveal the names of the other guests.

But they all came anyway, battling wind and rain to show up one by one at the door, wearing an equal mix of awkwardness and curiousity and carrying bottles of wine, baby strollers, flowers and bike helmets.

In order of appearance, there was Setareh, a second year student and activist, Rubina, recent grad and coordinator of the UVSS Women's Centre, and Proma, who teaches in the English department. Next came Geoff, a sessional instructor in political science, Jo-Anne, a women's studies professor, and Georgia, a sessional in history and women's studies. And later arrived Wil, a writing and English student involved in the Native Students Union and the UVSS Board, and Erik, a history major and the UVSS director of academics.

And then there was us: Lisa, a social justice activist and history grad student and Danielle, a women's studies and sociology student who works at the UVSS Women's Centre.

After several high profile incidents like the racist graffiti that peppered UVic in the early fall, the two of us came together to write this feature. It was obvious that issues of racism and colonialism needed more dialogue on campus, especially among people who do not think and talk about them everyday.

In particular, we wanted to focus on how racism and colonial oppression operate and are enacted in classrooms, and useful strategies for naming and dealing with these pervasively subtle and often-denied practices.

But we knew that our voices, as relatively privileged white women, were only two among many needed for such a dialogue, so we invited an eclectic group of friends and acquaintances who are active around these issues over for dinner.

Once everyone had had a chance to eat, drink and be merry, we all sat down in a circle of couches and comfy chairs in the candlelit living room, safe from the storm outside.

The monster under the bed

The conversation began haltingly at first, but it immediately became evident why we all needed to be there.

We need to address the precious self-conception held by many who staff and attend UVic: that we are far removed from nasty things like racism and colonialism. It becomes difficult to name and address these issues when people are busy patting themselves on the back for being innocent and unpolluted by history's fallout.

There is a difference between being "non-racist" and "anti-racist," pointed out Jo-Anne, sitting on a green yard sale treasure. And UVic seems content with the first of the two, doing just enough to look good on paper.

The university falsely "purports to be a place of Enlightenment" where the ideals of individual merit, equality and democracy reign supreme, argued Proma from her dark green leather recliner.

UVic has plenty of workshops, reports and understaffed offices addressing "equity" and "diversity." But according to Proma, Geoff and Jo-Anne, this merely teaches people how to safeguard and protect themselves from the difficult but real engagement these issues demand.

It all amounts to "How Not to Deal With These Problems 101." On an individual level, among students, this superficial kind of engagement often takes the form of "The Cathartic Confessional:"

Step one: embrace your terror and enter a space, such as the classroom of one of our dinner party members, where you know you'll be challenged.

Step two: wait for the right moment and loudly confess that you know you've gained privileges at the expense of others.

Step three: check for looks of sympathy and acceptance on the faces of the people around you, particularly from students of colour.

Step four: leave the classroom feeling shaken up but somewhat redeemed and self-congratulatory.

Step five: resume business as usual.

Rubina argued that after gaining a rudimentary understanding of the issues many students seem to think: "I've achieved diversity. I've achieved acceptance. I've gained knowledge. And now I can leave the classroom and just be enlightened."

This treats racism as though it were just some sort of childhood monster under the bed that we try desperately not to think about until we have to get up to go to the bathroom and are forced to run to the light switch and then . . . sigh of relief . . . there's nothing there. The bright light of knowledge and understanding will save us all.

Captain Cook in suburbia

Over vegan chocolate pudding and red wine, the group began to discuss how, as Jo-Anne put it, "classroom dynamics are a symptom of a bigger problem."

She asked us if we thought the fact that Victoria is so close to Vancouver and yet lacks its diversity is because of "white flight" (see sidebar: "A note on "race") a term originally used to describe the mass exodus of white folks from urban centres to the "safe" and racially homogenized suburbs.

Setareh, who has lived in Victoria for many years, nodded repeatedly and said, "I think Victoria is an uncomfortable place for people of colour."

Does this mean that UVic is an exclusionary suburb-like haven for white kids, complete with ocean-scented air, bunnies, and just enough diversity to add some colour but not rock the boat?

It's a difficult question.

"One only has to start with Captain Cook looking out over the Inner Harbour, and unpack Victoria from there," said Geoff, sitting with his long legs folded up on a purple velour chair. "We are always participating in the enactment of white Victoria."

Although the City of Victoria website starts its "history" page with James Cook, the first known European to step foot on what became Vancouver Island, the history of this land goes back much further.

And like in all of Canada, European settlement here was not benign. It is a continuing history of stolen children, cultures, languages, and land.

Many of us have heard that UVic is built on the traditional land of the Lekwungen First Nation. But more of us need to stop and think about what that really means.

Fear, frustration and headache classes

As we digested dinner and many difficult questions, we began to talk about practices of silence and speaking, the most common ways in which racism and colonial oppression manifest in the classroom.

In most classes, the silence itself speaks about what's missing. Erik, nestled

between Rubina and Setareh on the co
[in History] of reporting on events as if
racism being played out."

Setareh nodded, adding, "In classroom
conservative professor and you're a min

And when that silence is broken, said
about speaking and processing the mat

"What sticks out to me is how that w
"What does it mean to be terrified whe
classroom, doing some reading?"

Georgia, sitting on a chair that match
such fear, particularly among white stu

"I've written, 'love not fear' on the bo
can look at it and be able to shift," she

While many students may feel fear, o
experience of being in a "literature abou
having the professor draw attention to
the teaching."

"It turned out to be what I call a head
whether I speak or I don't speak I com
knowing if what I contributed helped o
have."

Unfortunately, it often falls to racialize
students to speak out about racism and

As Jo-Anne said at one point, "There
I can't because I feel like students need
there's not enough people teaching the

We also spoke a lot that night about
people from dominant groups, which o
include when white students speak as t
feel so entitled to speak that they leave
respond defensively to challenges to th
cultural differences.

Rubina noted, somewhat ironically, t
theoretical language that can be most s
language, she said, but "without really
putting it into practice," sometimes eve

After the guests left and we had a ch
thought that this all stood in sharp con
of deep listening and thoughtful reflect
words that were with us in the circle o

Critical open space

Soon after dinner, Georgia's son Zac
pacified with what Georgia referred to
taken home. After a long goodbye, nin

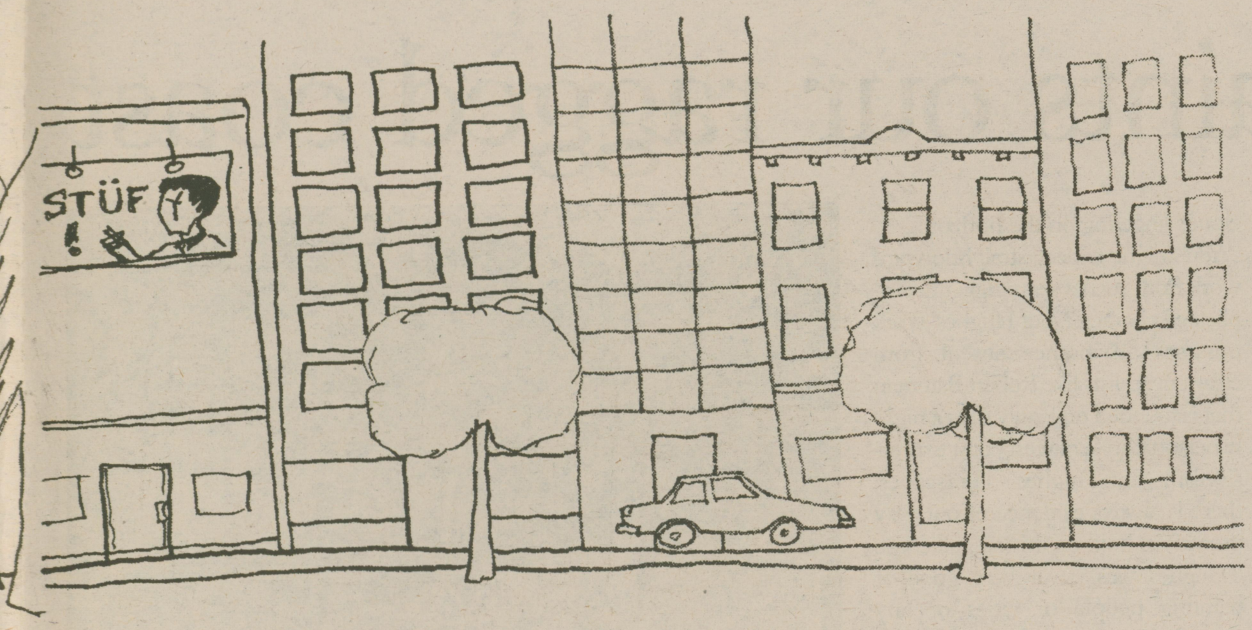
The guests agreed: there is a crisis in
classroom is an] equal level playing fie
not so and it never was to start with."

The monster under the bed is real. H
maintained its hopefulness despite the
the darkness, battering the walls and b

It was time to articulate an alternativ

"We need to move from accommoda
it," said Erik.

How can students and professors bet
the classroom, and find the delicate al
to learn about these difficult issues?



sm in the classroom

the couch, pointed out that "there's a sense
ts as if there isn't colonial oppression or

ssrooms where it is a very mainstream or
e a minority, how do you break the silence?"
n, said Proma, "many people express fear
ne material."
that word 'fear' is used," she continued.
ed when all you're doing is sitting in a

matched Jo-Anne's, said she had also seen
ite students.
the board and so when they get fearful they
t," she said.
fear, others feel frustration. Wil related an
re about First Nations" English class and
ion to him as someone who could "help with

a headache class," he explained, "where
I come out of the class with a headache, not
elped or if I didn't contribute and I should

acialized, visible minority professors and
sm and colonialism.
"There are many courses I'd like to teach, but
s need classes on anti-racist feminism and
ing them."
about the silencing of marginalized voices by
which can happen in myriad ways. Examples
eak as though their experience is the norm,
y leave no room for the voices of others,
es to their privilege, or fail to recognize

cally, that it is perhaps the adept use of
most silencing. People often use anti-racist
really knowing what it means and without
nes even using it against students of colour.
d a chance to speak about the discussion, we
arp contrast to the respectful, spacious silences
reflection, and carefully chosen, constructive
circle of comfy chairs earlier that night.

on Zachary woke up and refusing to be
rred to as "boobie-snacks," insisted on being
ye, nine remained.
risis in education. Many "like to think [the
ing field," Jo-Anne argued. "But of course it's
with."
real. However, our little dinner party
ite the growing sound of the wind outside in
s and bending the trees.
ernative.
mmodating diversity to actively learning from

sors better confront racism and colonialism in
cate alchemy of silence and speaking needed
ues?

Ultimately, by creating a space somewhat like what our little dinner party strived to be: what our guests began to call "a critical open space."

It was Geoff who introduced the term, arguing that teaching was his form of activism. "How is it that I do politics? I've moved myself off logging roads, off social justice campaigns to thinking about how I create a critical space of openness in the classroom, as my political endeavour."

We admit it sounds vague. What does this kind of space look like?

Perhaps we should start with how it feels. Racism and colonialism are often experienced on an emotional level. This was obvious from the passion, anger and laughter that filled the living room that night.

At times, a critical open space can feel uncomfortable. Active engagement with issues of racism and colonial oppression requires a willingness to be challenged and embrace the feeling of constructive discomfort that indicates a potentially liberatory shift.

"Certain moments in a classroom that feel like a complete breakdown or a complete failure are perhaps instructive in some ways," expressed Proma near the end of the evening.

Nodding, Geoff related his approach to his students: "My role is to disturb and your role is to tell me why you're disturbed. It's a practice of opening, not opposing."

This is the crucial distinction. Unfortunately, it is often overlooked. Many people respond defensively to such challenges, making the consequences of "disturbing" students often quite grave, especially for minority professors.

"There's an assumption that (white student's) needs, issues and ways of thinking will be centred," said Jo-Anne. "The minute you begin to destabilize that, that's very scary. "They may report you to your Chair, they may send you nasty e-mails, they may demand time in your office . . . they could be quiet the entire term and then when they do the course evaluation, they get you then. It's risky. But when are you not at risk?"

Similarly, professors may respond defensively to challenges to their curriculum or teaching method. Such defensiveness constricts critical dialogue, and limits possibilities for learning.

In a critical open space, we would, as Erik put it, see our classrooms as a community–one in which we welcome challenges from our instructors, students or peers as a gift and opportunity.

This is especially necessary for students and professsors who carry white privilege, and with it the ability to overlook ways in which racism and colonialism are at play.

"People who come into the classroom with a sense of entitlement and privilege, when they have that challenged or brought to their awareness often perceive it as a shutting down of something" said Proma, "but it could also be seen as an opening or creation of something."

Learning is difficult, especially when we are learning new ways of being, new ways of seeing the world, new ways of interacting with others, and new ways of organizing ourselves in community. At its best, the classroom can be a space of humour, excitement, empowerment and critical self-reflection.

What we need are new ways of learning.

Possibilities for transformation

At the end of the evening we went one last time around the circle to collect final thoughts and feelings. Wil expressed a hopeful note before everyone parted ways back out into the rain.

"There is no one-sentence answer when it comes to racism and colonization," he said. "It's a journey. I guess for me, the important point is to see there's a potential for transformation in all of this."

Thank you to the dinner party guests, to Chelsea for all the help with dinner, and to Jeff for the advice and support.

Methods of silencing

The following are a few examples of the ways people from dominant groups can silence marginalized voices:

- Downplaying or denying the reality of oppression.
- Arguing reverse racism, as though power doesn't exist or an isolated incident of discrimination has the same consequences as the daily marginalization of people of colour and indigenous people.
- Prioritizing certain learning, communication and writing styles at the expense of others, such as objective detachment over emotional engagement or knowledge based on experience.
- Speaking so much that there's no room for others–especially those who are not comfortable interrupting.
- Making the classroom a hostile and oppressive environment, for example through inappropriate jokes, accusations of political correctness, or "I'm not racist, but . . ." comments.
- Perpetuating "common sense" understandings of the world, such as notions of Canadian citizenship that lead to people of colour so often being asked "where are you from?"
- Failing to listen.

A note on "race"

The idea that there are separate "races" has been scientifically disproven. However, such ideas still impact our lives–we give them social reality through enactment of racism and colonial oppression in our interactions and institutions. "Race" then interweaves with class, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability and so on.

In this article, we use the term "white" very broadly to refer to those who are most privileged by dynamics of racism and colonialism. However, "white" is not a homogenous group, and "whiteness" is more than a skin colour. It is a dominant worldview and set of practices that we enact.

Strategies for dealing with racism and colonialism in the classroom

For educators:

Teach to the margins. Make this explicit.

At the outset, tell students that learning about racism and colonialism involves discomfort and challenge.

Be attentive to the physical and spiritual energy of the classroom (i.e. sitting arrangements, body language, attention level etc.).

Find allies–both students and other professors–with whom you can share feelings, strategies, and experiences.

Assume that whatever your curriculum is, you are either implicitly or explicitly teaching about racism and colonialism.

Validate emotional as well as intellectual engagement.

Allow time for partial, halting discussion and reflection.

Use humour strategically and invite feedback.

Process class dynamics in the classroom.

For students of colour:

Be strategic when you name and disrupt oppressive dynamics and about where you put your energies. Take care of yourself.

Find a supportive community on campus and allies to support you in speaking up.

For white students:

Be attentive to the way you and others take up space or remain silent.

Take responsibility, and don't allow minority students to be the only ones speaking out about racism and colonialism.

Be willing to be challenged.

Assume that racism and colonial oppression are always at work.

Be critically self-reflective.

Speak from your experiences.

For all students:

Challenge and question oppressive dynamics whenever possible.

Talk to your professors outside of class. Tell them your concerns. Make suggestions for possible solutions.

Be brave, even in the face of fear.

Prof-shop: find and create relationships with professors who tackle racism and colonialism.

Have dinner parties.

E.J. Hughes paints our ragged coast

BY PATRICK WHITE

Two weeks ago, a performance artist who once lay naked in a shallow grave with a vial of his own blood dribbling from his anus won the $15,000 Governor-General's award for visual art. In official pictures of the ceremony, Istvan Kantor can be seen sitting beside John Raulston Saul and Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson with arms and fingers raised in peace symbols.

E.J. Hughes, the focus of a new retrospective appreciation at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, would not approve. Despite retrospective shows across the country peaking interest in his work, Hughes remains the epitome of humility.

At 91, Hughes still spends more time hunched over a canvas than he does hob-knobbing with the throngs who adore him. It's not the type of lifestyle that gets an artist acclaim in the age of Kantor, but Hughes has always been more comfortable speaking with his brush than through eccentricity. He is a quiet old man who has avoided the recent high-profile showings of his work across the country.

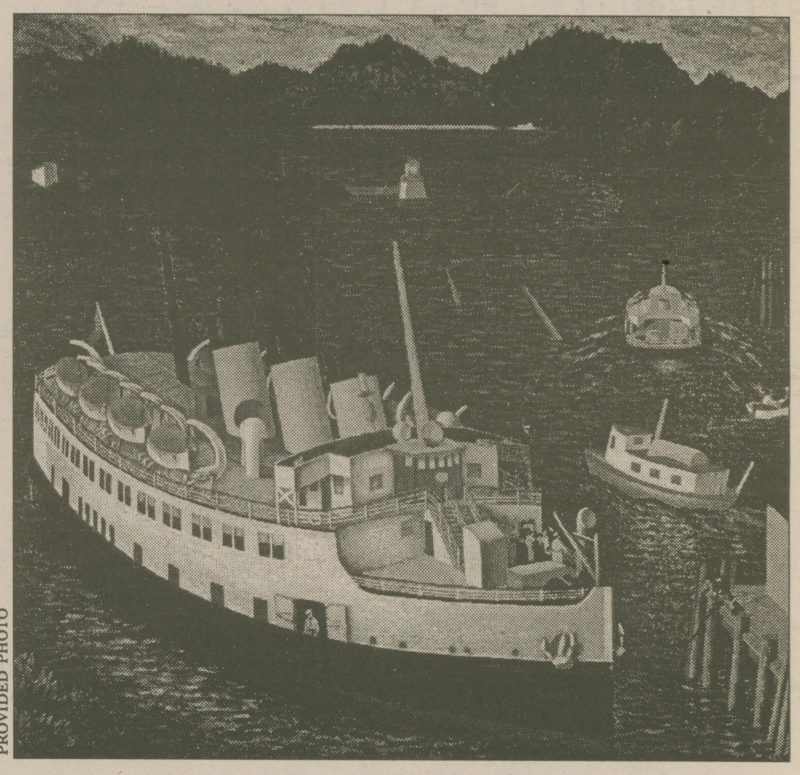
The Victoria show opened last Thursday and will remain until June 13. It shows 113 of Hughes' pieces from his time at the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (now Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design) in the '30s right up to the year 2000.

Over that period of time (much of it spent in poverty), Hughes rarely wavered from four defining characteristics: bold colours, painstaking attention to detail, a slow pace and predominantly west coast subjects. His portrayals of union steamships, which plowed the waters of the B.C. coast regularly until the '50s, often show bright, almost toy-like boats on a dark sea with foreboding storm clouds lingering on the horizon.

You might expect straightforward work from such a seemingly uncomplicated character, but Hughes' work posseses a vibrance absent from clear-cut realists like Robert Bateman that is founded on Emily Carr's highly personal style of west coast expressionism. In Hughes' landscapes, there is always evidence of our very precarious hold on this ragged coast.

Hughes was never very good at painting people or cities or any scenes that would have provided noisy distractions. He hated noise and refused to lift a brush in its presence.

This silence translates onto his canvases and gives Hughes' work a super-real yet other-worldly aura. Though the quaint way of life he depicts is rapidly disappearing on our west coast, his unique vision renews the visual experience of everyday life on the B.C. coast, which suits Hughes and his fans just fine.



PROVIDED PHOTO

E.J. Hughes' *Steamer Arriving at Nanaimo*, 1950. Oil on canvas. Private collection E.J. Hughes.

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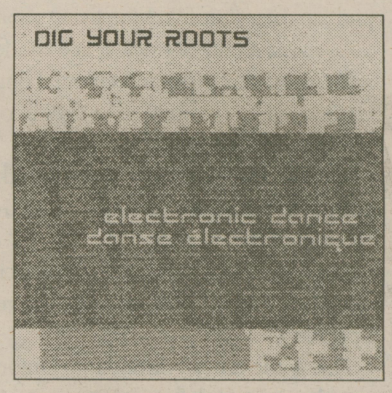
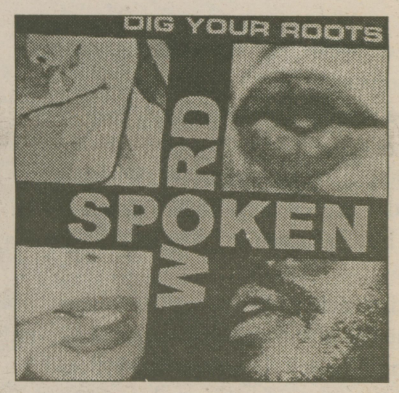
Can you dig it, baby?

BY GERALDINE BULOSAN

Dig Your Roots
Spoken Word
Electronic Dance
Corus Entertainment





Looking for something to express your joy that spring is here? Nothing does it like a new CD–or how about two?

Dig Your Roots, a nation-wide competition organized by the NCRA (National Campus Radio Association), features an array of Canadian artists in a variety of music genres and performance art. The 10-part series is releasing its spoken word and electronic dance albums this month, and both make for a good listen that instills a sense of pride for our national talent.

Spoken word–that world where poetry meets performance–is not as intimidating as those specialty-coffee drinking, beret and black-clad types appear. So think of this as your invitation to the next reading. The disc opens up with Steph Bernston's "Barreling Madly" as she sings the praises of a beautiful day. Her performance is energizing and makes one feel welcome to listen on. Another lighthearted piece recalls the childhood rhyme: "Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been? I've been to London to visit the Queen. . . ."

Some pieces require repeated listening since many of the clever play-on-words and metaphors take time to absorb, such as in the impressive "Hard to choke your artichoke heart," in which syllable fragments create interesting repetition and images. If your French is comme ci, comme ça, "Bulletin de nouvelles en bref" by Eve Langevein and "Fragment de Reflection de Mirroir 2" by Khyro become almost musical in their repetition and rhythms of syllables.

There are some more serious pieces dealing with relationships in all their varying turmoil, such as "Make Me/Sombrio Spirit" by local Janet Marie Rogers–a sensual piece accompanied by music. A good portion of this disc also comments on social issues, such as "Mythology" by Unblind, which addresses some of the cultural and social problems of black society, or Odessa Thornhill's "I Sold My Wealth" in which she warns women to think twice about giving away "that prize between your thighs."

Each of the pieces range from one to five minutes, leaving you to wonder how it's possible to say so much in such a brief amount of time. Clichéd topics are kept from banality due to insight, good writing and, of course, smooth performance. Overall, this is a well-compiled disc that showcases a lot of exciting talent.

The electronic dance album offers a range of funky disco-inflected songs, down-tempo tunes and minimal grooves of German and French influence–think Kraftwerk and bits of cereal-crunchy static.

The opening track, "Qu'elle a dit" by Alexandre, layers drums and vocals against a cool swish of electronic chords to create a lush yet spacious sound. Victoria's own East Coast Disaster Complex offers "Robbiemart," a satisfying tune that moves from down-tempo to upbeat. Its beats are minimal and funky, there is a pretty music-box-sample melody that gets a little messed up and digitized, and some keyboard action adds to the textures of the song. Other songs to note are: "Don't Listen" by D_MON for its phat electro sound and head-nodding beats, "Falls" by Blackjwell and "quand peanut fait dodo" by vitaminsforyou. Each has some beautiful stark beats and a cool melodic approach.

Some of the songs have the faux-jazz stylings of St. Germain or are Moby-ish with vocal and melodic loops. The house and trance tracks, which were few, were disappointingly static and uninteresting–they lacked innovation and were too sloppily arranged to maintain any interest. However, the majority of the album has a good mix of styles that make up for the poor tracks.

Both genres will be showcased in five different cities, which will be broadcast across Canada via campus-community radio stations (CFUV 101.9 is UVic's campus-community station), so you won't miss out on this wealth of Canadian talent.

Other genres in the *DYR* competition are Hip Hop (released in '03), experimental Audio Art, International, Roots, First Nations, Metal and Jazz–all to be released over the next three years.

Dig Your Roots national concerts for Spoken Word will take place from March 18–26 across Canada. Electronic dance musicians will be performing between April 16 and April 24. Visit www.DigYourRoots.ca for details.

Kerchief Lady (2004)

Horia Coman photo

Maggie Sutrov, a fourth-year visual arts student, did this watercolour at one of the life drawing sessions held weekly in the Visual Arts building.

Slam poetry for the stage erupts at this year's FIND

by Max Lamb

In live theatre, it is rare for a director and a playwright to work so closely on a collaborative project together. The Phoenix Theatre's Festival of Innovative and New Drama (FIND) is presenting an obscure yet refreshing illustration of this concept with its Studio Series playing March 19 and 20.

Studio Series is a collection of six one-act plays written, directed, produced and performed by UVic students from the theatre and writing departments with all the freshness of the best of our university's Fine Arts department. It's slam poetry with even more emotional intensity.

Though the plays were written to be performed with actions, the format for the Studio Series is a simple staged reading, said theatre chair Brian Richmond. "We're creating a Fringe Festival atmosphere around the readings this year. It's great for audiences and it provides students with the challenge of working under pressure and turning productions around quickly and creatively." The plays run under an hour and can be seen individually, or all at once.

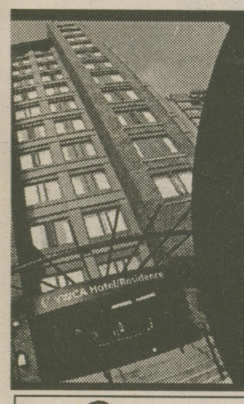
Working with the new scripts was a challenge for some of the directors. Dee Stanz, who directs *The Rise and Fall of Ann Boland* in the series, said, "It was very different than what I'm used to. I've always worked with a pre-existing script, such as classic well-known scripts. New work is really interesting, and we don't always get a chance to interact with the playwright. The fact that the playwright is there and available, it's a much more collaborative project. He or she is there to contribute their ideas, so they can get across their vision as well."

Katherine Bethell, who directs *The Island of Women*, has enjoyed the challenge that the series presents. "It has been a challenge for sure, because this play is completely physical. A lot of them are. I think we broke some new ground with the actors," she said.

It's interesting to guess how one can break new ground in the world of staged readings. Whether this means an extreme level of dramatic pronunciation (like the exuberant cry of "STELLA!" from *A Streetcar Named Desire*), or just some new form of non-physical madness is unclear. The person behind this bizarre presentation is Marisa Vest, a graduating student. She takes the dual role of producing and stage managing the readings, making her the first student ever to produce the series. She found the process to be challenging yet rewarding. "It's been quite an experience, and I find it very refreshing to work on a production written, acted, directed and managed entirely by students."

This series is testament to the best of UVic's writing and theatre talents. It allows for aspiring writers to showcase their work and lets directors experiment with the concept of traveling without moving. This madcap procession is the perfect platform for two entirely different fields of art to conspire together.

On March 19 and March 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m., the play readings will be presented back to back in the Phoenix Theatre's Studio. Admission is by donation.



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Native son Arcand strikes again

by Edward Pullman

Rating:

Over the years, Hollywood has gained more and more power and influence over the entertainment industry. The Canadian film industry, in turn, has been left to flounder.

Indeed, thinking back over the past few years, it is difficult, if not impossible–with the exception of Zacharias Kunuk's *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*–for most people to think of a film that has been conceived, written and shot by Canadians for Canadians. *The Barbarian Invasions* is a movie that breaks this trend and presents a memorable Canadian film that is sharp, witty, reflective and melancholy.

The plot is surprisingly simple when compared to all the other aspects of the film. Rémy (Rémy Girard) is dying of cancer and does not have much time left. His son Sébastien (Stéphane Rousseau) returns to Canada upon his mother's request after many years of absence to comfort–and confront–his dying father.

They don't get along well, for they both sit at opposite ends of the political spectrum. Rémy, a staunch socialist who comments at one point "I voted for Medicare and I'll live with the consequences," loathes his son's capitalist choice to become an international finance investor.

However, his son's wealth does become a definite asset to him as Sébastien's belief is that any problem can be resolved by throwing large wads money at it. Rémy shares a room in the hospital with five other people and is surrounded by doctors who can't remember his name. Sébastien responds by bribing the administration and gruff union officials (including one played by director Denys Arcand) in order to secure his father a better room on an empty floor of the hospital. After one of the nurses informs Sébastien morphine isn't helping his father's pain, but heroin might, he makes an agreement with one of his father's friends daughter to supplement her habit in exchange for getting him heroin for his father.

Sébastien even goes as far as to bribe old students of Rémy to visit him in the hospital.

This film deals with a man on his deathbed, but is also filled with political commentary and reflects on 30 years of history. It offers meaningful and detailed discourse on the subject of life and death, fidelity and sexuality but never slows down, with the exception of its melancholy yet inevitable ending.

The movie is carried entirely by a cast who don't have an elaborate plot or special effects to fall back on. The casting is fabulous, with each character always contributing to a scene. The dialogue, from Sébestien's

ROGER EBERT, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
"A MASTERPIECE!"
A provocative new comedy about sex, friendship, and all the other things that invade our lives.
THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS
A FILM BY DENYS ARCAND

sneaky dealings to Rémy and his friends conversing about the old days, flows at an excellent pace and is never boring. The movie addresses what we will take with us into the next world, those things that are most important to us. As Rémy lies on his deathbed, he says, "I haven't found a meaning. I have to search."

The Barbarian Invasions gives Canadians what they have needed for a long time. This Canadian film's characters and script are truly unique to our country, offering insight into many aspects of our lives. The movie is easily recommendable to anyone, but given the fact it is a masterfully made Canadian movie, it is the civil duty of all Canadians to see this film.

The Barbarian Invasions *plays at Cinecenta at 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. on March 18.*

Disney's latest dog 'n' pony show

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Rating:

Despite re-treading swashbuckling and western movie clichés, and trying to multi-task as a comedic adventure, a sensitive character study, a romance and a politically correct guilt-trip–this "based on a true story" Disney yarn is passable entertainment.

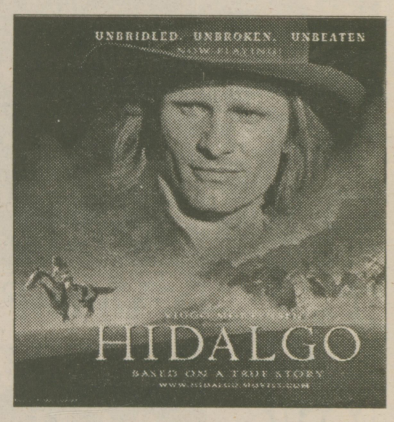
Never before has the cinematic chemistry between a leading horse–the Hildago of the title–and a leading man–played by Viggo Mortensen–been able to carry an otherwise bland movie.

Billed as the world's best endurance rider, drunken has-been Frank T. Hopkins (Mortensen) is invited to enter "The Ocean of Fire," a 3,000-mile race across the Arabian Desert in a contest so dangerous that nearly half of the participants end up perishing on the first day.

Like most Disney live-action family fare, this is a conventional underdog story. Man and horse face off against the treacherous competition, including a villainous upper-class English woman, sandstorms, locusts, quicksand and attack leopards. These events are exciting and dramatic, but ultimately they seem out of place in a film where the central theme is man versus himself.

The race has been run in Saudi Arabia for thousands of years as a means to test the noblest of purebred Arabian stallions. But Hidalgo, a lowly mustang, is a mixed breed and is regarded as impure and an insult to the integrity of the competition. Naturally, the local Arabs deride Hopkins' participation in the dignified race, seeing it as a violation of the event's distinction. This runs counterpoint to the audience's learning that Hopkins himself is also a "mixed breed"–half white and half Native American.

This is the crux of what is wrong with this film. It seems to bounce back and forth between being a wannabe epic adventure with tongue-in-cheek comic undertones and an intimate portrayal of a man coming to terms with himself. As much as Mortensen tries to create a fully realized character, the screenplay by John Fusco doesn't give Frank Hopkins any real depth. Due to the script's lack of engaging dialogue, Mortensen plays Hopkins as a laid-back, private sort of character who occasionally gets lost in the sweeping desert scenery. Nonetheless, it is Mortensen's quiet charm that makes the predictably happy ending emotionally satisfying, instead of as super-hokey as it would've been if a less talented actor were cast in the role.



Hildago's lack of thematic focus aside, if you're a horse lover it is still worth checking out on the big screen, if only because *Hidalgo* captures some of the most beautiful animal actors in recent memory. Otherwise, I'd recommend waiting 'til the DVD release, so you can fast-forward at your own discretion.

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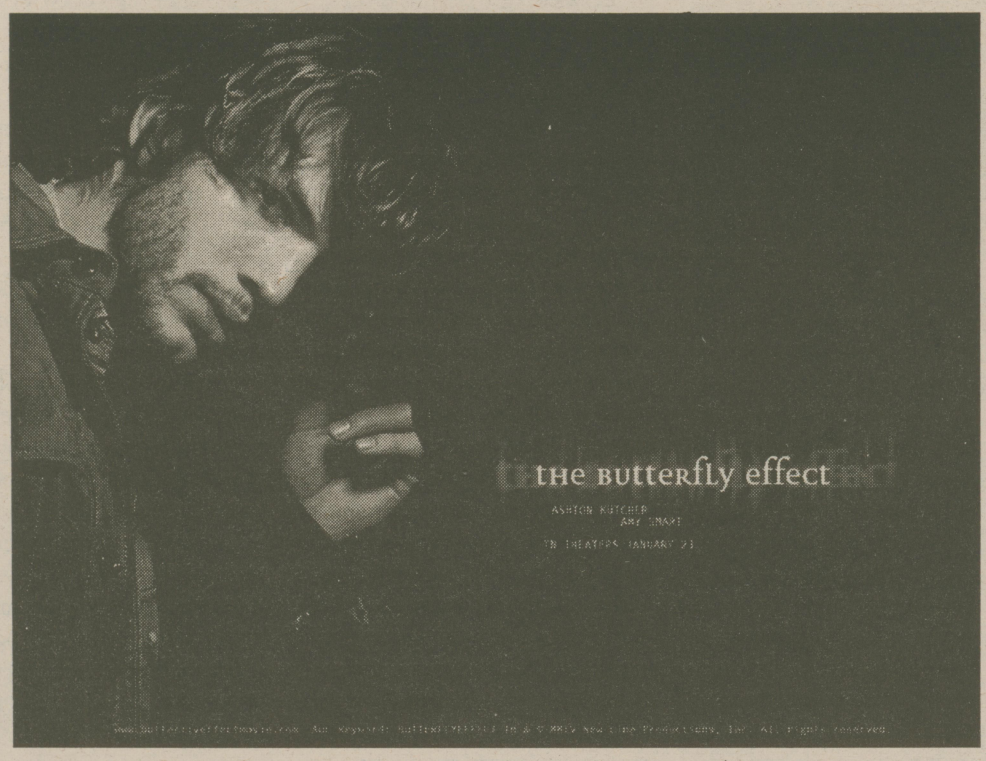
Kutcher should stick to screwing Moore

by Briony Smith

Rating:



Mr. Demi Moore may have once declared his hope to be the "hardest working" actor in Hollywood, but right now he holds the title for "hardest sucking."

Ashton Kutcher has managed to make a movie as dumb as he is.

Neither his scanty facial hair nor the so-called dramatic role of time-travelling Evan Treborn can elevate the Kutcher himbo franchise–or *The Butterfly Effect*–to something worth seeing.

The Butterfly Effect, from directors Eric Bress and J. Mackye Gruber–the lads who penned the venerable classic *Final Destination 2*–is a disaster of a film that is so laughably bad that afterwards, I felt that I should spend time warming the seat in the confessional to make up for the sin of sitting through this piece of trash.

The story concerns young Evan Treborn, played all dewy-eyed-yet-sassy by the dimwit boy du jour Ashton Kutcher. While suffering a traumatic childhood–the young Evan has pulled a knife on his mother, starred in some child porn, witnessed his dog being set on fire and acted as an accessory to the killing of a mother and her baby–Evan suffers blackouts. Then to satisfy the scores of tweens who are ponying up Dad's dough to salivate over Ashton's luscious pout, the film speeds ahead to years later.

The plot accelerates–Evan realizes that, by reading the journals he kept as a child, he can visit the past events where he blacked out and change the past.

This is the silly premise for an even sillier film.

It is a shame, as the actual concept for this movie is sort of an interesting one, and has all sorts of possibilities for pondering the philosophical questions of life. But *The Butterfly Effect* merely uses the plot as a gimmick to give Ashton a variety of facial hair and hairstyles, including an '80s jock shag, a Prada model shag and the unflatterig quasi-bowl-cut he sports when he becomes a person with a disability in one of his futures.

This segment of the film was not so much silly as offensive. In this particular scenario, Evan has changed the past so his sociopath friend (William Lee Scott) is a cheery upstanding youth, and his best friends (Elden Henson and Amy Smart) have found love and everything is perfect–except for his lack of forearms, and the aforementioned lack of a good haircut and any wardrobe beyond a grey sweat suit. The film executes a deus ex machina in that it validates Evan's choice to change the scenario–and thus nullifying the perfect lives of everyone except for himself–by providing his mother with lung cancer. This stereotyping of people with a disability as sad sacks is offensive and the film, rather than providing Kutcher with any character depth, which would give the audience understanding why he would choose his arms over everyone else's happiness, leaves the viewer with a sour taste. The overriding impression is of a film with a very negative take on living with a disability.

The plot also suffers in that some of the choices that Evan makes when he is erasing the past are unbelievably dumb. Even the nascent form of a Kelso-to-be wouldn't do something as stupid as to threaten someone with a lit stick of dynamite in a small basement.

Though Kutcher is dim enough to project an air of bovine harmlessness at all times, Bress and Gruber's script doesn't do Kutcher any favours. Evan never really makes it through a character arc, as he is surfing through time–always changing where he is starting from so that he exists as a man with no real past and no real place to grow from. Even the romance between Evan and Kayleigh (Amy Smart) feels hollow because the screenplay throws them into so many alternate pasts and futures that the present–and any worthwhile development of a satisfying relationship–is merely another slide in the View-Master of this film.

Acting as executive producer on this film, Kutcher has obviously tried to secure himself a dramatic role and a serious movie to pad out his flimsy film resume, but *The Butterfly Effect* is a laughable mess of a movie that amuses in all the wrong ways. Kutcher should stick to screwing Demi Moore instead of his film career.

The Butterfly Effect *plays at Cinecenta at 11:45 p.m. on March 19 and 20.*

21 Grams flails like a Dadaist poem gone bad

by Richard Warnica

Rating:

Around 1919, the Dadaist poet Tristan Tzara developed a method for creating abstract poetry: take a newspaper article, cut the words out individually, place them in a bag and then draw them out one by one, studiously recording their new order. The method and its jumbled offspring didn't last long and Tzara eventually moved on to more conventional poetic forms.

21 Grams, the second film from Alejandro González Iñárritu, the director of *Amores Perros*, has the feel of a Dadaist poem, but not in a good way.

In *21 Grams*, Iñárritu takes a relatively hackneyed and implausible plot involving a born-again Christian (Benicio Del Toro), the recipient of a heart transplant (Sean Penn) and a grieving widow (Naomi Watts), cuts it up, tosses it in a bag, pulls it out and calls the result innovative film making.

Like the critically acclaimed *Amores Perros*, *21 Grams* begins with a series of seemingly disconnected narratives before connecting them through a brutal car accident.

Del Toro's character, an ex-con who buries his rage in fundamentalist Christianity, hits and kills a father and his two children while speeding through an intersection. His victims are the family of the addled, recovering cocaine addict played by Naomi Watts.

Penn's character, a university professor dying of a heart condition, finds new life with the heart of Watts' dead husband and promptly abandons the wife who saw him through his illness to pursue the grieving Watts. Once together the two seek out vengeance on the guilt-wracked Del Toro.

The entire bizarre process swirls around like a poorly written Salman Rushdie novel, circling the eventual conclusion by leaping back and forth in the timeline before ending with a twist that is neither startling nor satisfying.

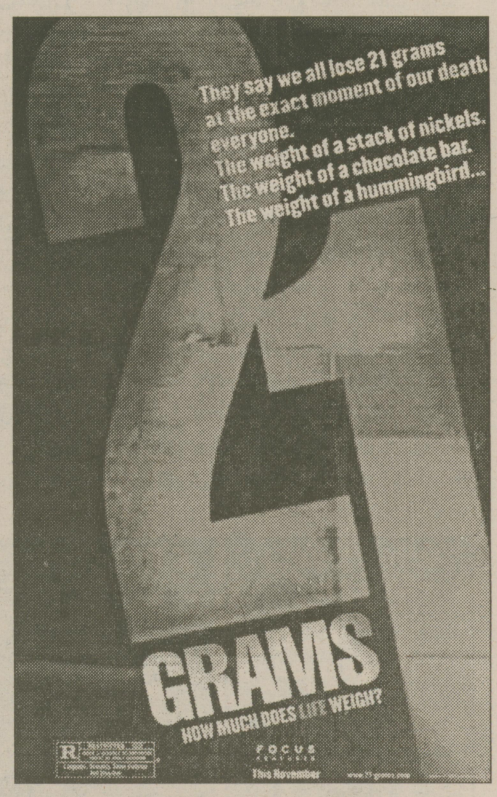
Iñárritu completely fails to draw the viewer into the world created by the superb performances of Del Toro, et al. His mixed-up narrative, shaky camera work and jagged editing all work against any sense of connection with or immersion in the plot.

That being said, the performances in the film are excellent. The climactic and all-too-brief confrontation between Del Toro and Penn presents an embarrassment of acting riches. And Melissa Leo (from NBC's *Homicide: Life on the Street*) is excellent as Del Toro's long-suffering wife.

Unfortunately, Iñárritu's refusal to linger on any scene and allow the acting to speak for itself continually erodes the pleasure of watching the performances.

Ever since the release of Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, it has been de rigueur for edgy young directors to plot non-linear, cut-and-paste films. The result in *21 Grams* is a movie that squanders the considerable acting talent at its disposal, resulting in a disconnected piece of failed experimentation.

21 Grams *plays at Cinecenta at 7:00 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. on March 19, 20, and 21.*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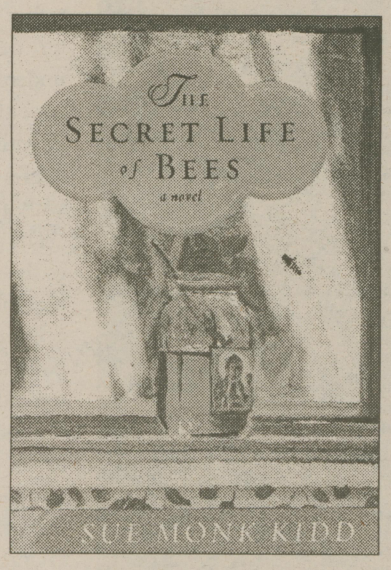
Bees have fun secrets, too

by Zoë Bake-Paterson
Graham Stark bees

The Secret Life of Bees
Sue Monk Kidd
Penguin Books



To read a book as intense and brilliant as a scorching summer's day, with words that vibrate in the mind like the droning of bees is a rare thing, and Sue Monk Kidd's novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, is exactly that–a treasure.

"If you've never seen a cluster of beehives first thing in the morning, you've missed the eighth wonder of the world."

This book will let you in on secrets of every kind. It is a fiction of multitudes: part history of racial unrest in the southern United States in 1964, part natural study of bees, part introduction to beekeeping and part exploration of Christianity.

It may sound plump with dry exposition and long chapters brimming with inane details, but Kidd's novel captures energy.

"Picture these white boxes tucked under pine trees . . . There will be a few hundred bees doing laps around the hive boxes, just warming up."

It is a story of movement. Everything is living, dying or longing, for love and for freedom.

The Secret Life of Bees tracks an awkward, motherless young girl on her search for family and love and her discoveries of these things in unusual ways and places. Set in 1964, the year the Civil Rights Act in the United States was introduced, the tale charts 14-year-old Lily's journey to learn more about her dead mother and her escape from her moody, peach-farming father, T-Ray. Sparked by the arrest of her black "stand-in-mother" Rosaleen–who insulted three racist men in town while going to register to vote–Lily helps to free her and the two become runaways in South Carolina.

Full of rural details and racist attitudes, Kidd's complex version of the South is provocative.

It explores the slow discovery of the protagonist's own racism and her growing awareness of how one's skin colour can drastically change how one is accepted in the world.

It sounds naive, but the innocence is honest and the awakening brutal as Lily becomes part of a community of black women in Tiburon, South Carolina.

"From a distance it will look like a big painting you might see in a museum, but museums can't capture the sound. Fifty feet away you will hear it, a humming sound that sounds like it came from another planet."

Arriving on the door step of a bright pink house, Lily and Rosaleen move in with the eccentric trio of the Boatwright sisters. Each named for a month–May, June and August–these three women bring Lily into the foreign world of beekeeping, Black Madonnas and independence. Welcomed into a community of strong, fiesty women, Lily learns the trade of honey-making with August Boatwright in small steps: the first induction into beekeeping is being stung, and the second is to learn the story of Aristaeus and the myth of bees. Kidd spins a yarn about a place filled with outrageously colourful women in dramatic hats, Christianity based on a black Virgin Mary, cello music and a homemade "wailing wall." It is a world of intensity, one that catches Lily and the reader up in a whirlwind of wings and senses.

"At thirty feet away your skin will start to vibrate. The hair will lift on your neck. Your head will say, Don't go any further, but your heart will send you straight into the hum."

Filled with the subtle anguish of a young girl misplaced in the world, *The Secret Life of Bees* is a book that may break your heart in its masterful conveyance of longing. Kidd has created a story of potential melodrama that is told in a simple, effective way that brings a hot summer to life, opening the door to all the desires inside–the desire to belong, to dream, to be loved, and to be free.

"You will stand there and think, I am in the centre of the universe, where everything is sung to life."

An indie quickie

by Stefan Morales

Panurge
Throw Down the Reins
Nettwerk

An anomaly prevalent in our times is the use of electronic beats in acoustic music. When genealogically investigated, this reveals a history of children enrolled less in drum lessons and more in computer science courses through the 1990s.

This was done to prepare us (the "information generation") for the "information age" that was supposed to come around sometime at the turn of the millennium.

Many musicians were caught in the changing tides of that time, blending grunge, electronica, funk, folk, comedy and many other genres into a new thing. Panurge was new then, but not today. To say it bluntly, they sound like Beck. Whether or not this is a good thing is for the reader to decide.

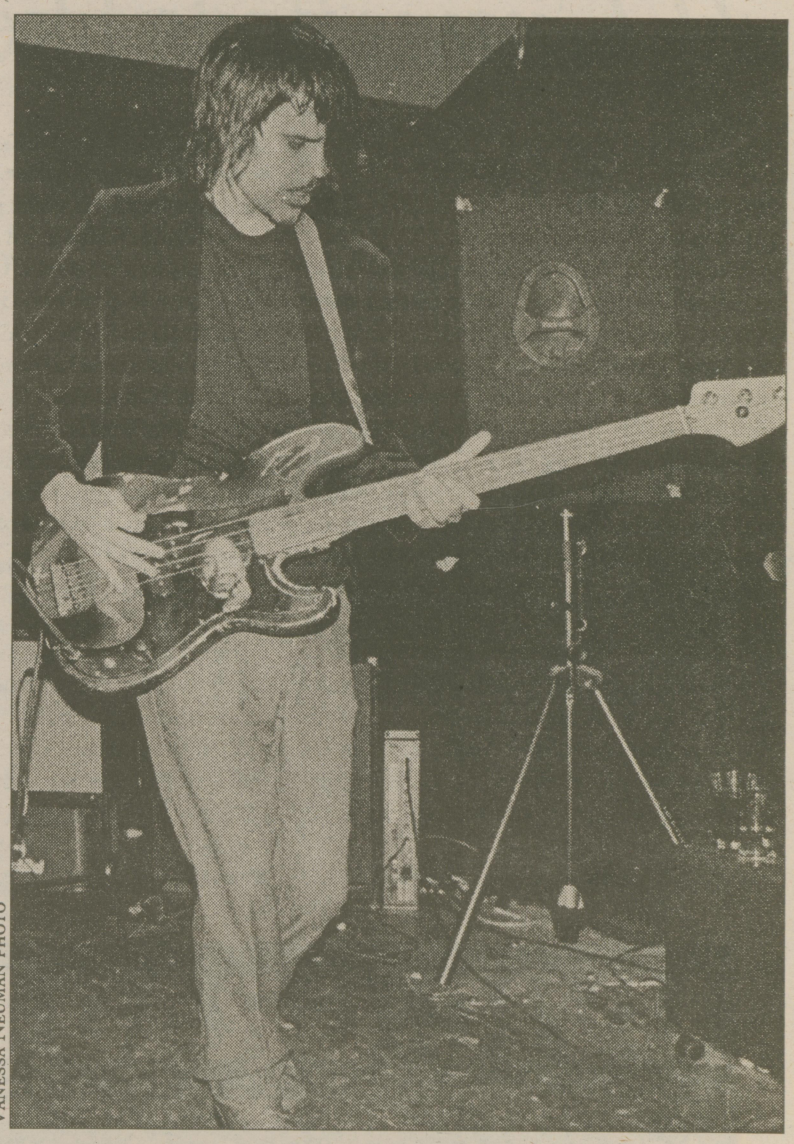
The band doesn't add anything new to what's already out there. Especially by writing the clichéd, quirky single "Sweet Fanny Annie," with it's corresponding video that seems too smoothly produced and directed to be anything but a money grab directed at the teen demographic.

The song "Ginny and the Flower Man" has enormous potential, however. If their next album focused more on the tones and intonations expressed there, Panurge could be responsible for something brilliant.

Watch out for Low Flying Owls

by Vanessa Neuman

Low Flying Owls
Elixir Vitae
Stinky Records



Vanessa Neuman photo

Michael Bruce, of the Low Flying Owls, embraces the darker side of bass at Logan's Pub

As a child, did you ever find yourself outside late at night, in a place where there was no street or house lights? Remember that feeling? Your first thought was possibly, "Wow, it's *dark*!", followed by a combination of "I'm scared," or "I'm excited." Still feel that slight twist in your gut?

Listening to the Low Flying Owls has the much the same effect. Their most recent disc, *Elixir Vitae*, borders on being excellent. Once you listen to the album, it's easy to hear why they are compared to '60s psychedelia and shoegazer rock. Guitar and keyboard melodies swirl, fading in and out of each other, sometimes coming into sharp focus, while at other times fuzzing out almost completely. The drums and the bass play hide and seek with the rest of the music; at times they're prominent, at others they're non-existent.

Crowning all this, floating over and around and under and through everything, pulling it all together, is vocalist and guitarist Jared Southard's voice.

Sounding slightly tortured and a tiny bit bored, Southard's vocals, usually something closely akin to a snarling wail, are always at the same volume as the rest of the instruments, making them merely a part of the entirety and not the most important part of the recording.

The Low Flying Owls is indeed a good name for the band: they belong to the night. Dark without being brooding, the Owls instead bring us songs like "Swingin' Sam" about a real estate agent selling houses where murders have been committed, or the slightly more upbeat song "The Last Day on the Planet" about having a good time on the day before the world is going to end.

In less skilled hands, the subject matter could be a downer, but fortunately they play what the band has coined "dark happiness," and for some strange reason it works, deftly avoiding being depressing by not being too emotional.

Elixir Vitae isn't amazing, only because the sheer amount of throwback garage rock produced these days makes it very difficult indeed for any one band to stand out from the crowd. But the disc is definitely worth a listen, as it grows on you each time, and Southard's voice alone makes it worth buying. It would be a suitable addition to any indie collection.

Bertuzzi stirs up more than trouble

Two views on hockey's latest bad boy

On March 8 2004, Vancouver Canucks forward Todd Bertuzzi stalked another player up and down the ice, before finally grabbing him from behind, punching him in the back of the head and falling on top of him, breaking the player's neck in the process. The victim, Colorado forward Steve Moore, was a target because of a borderline hit that knocked Vancouver captain Markus Naslund out of a game three weeks earlier.

The play has generated almost unprecedented media coverage in Canada, the U.S. and around the world. And on March 11 the NHL handed Bertuzzi a suspension lasting the remainder of the NHL regular season, the entire playoffs and possibly more, depending on a re-evaluation of Moore's condition later on.

Here then are two alternate view points on the hit, the punishment and the nature of violence in the game of hockey.

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

BERTUZZI WAS BAD, BUT NOT THAT BAD

BY TOM GRAINGER

Few hockey players have the ability to put an entire team on their shoulders and single-handedly carry them to victory; Todd Bertuzzi is one of those players. The excitement, energy, and physical play that he brings to the ice make it hard not to love the game of hockey.

But when something goes horribly wrong, like when all of that energy, strength and aggression is put towards retribution against another player, it can make even the biggest hockey fan question their love of the game.

There is no doubt in my mind that Bertuzzi did not plan to drive Colorado forward, Steve Moore's face into the ice two weeks ago in Vancouver. That said, there is no question that he did intend to sucker-punch the rookie from behind. Bertuzzi knows that what he did was wrong and as much as he knows that, he understands that he has to be responsible for his actions on the ice.

The play was 100 times worse than the hit Moore leveled on Naslund three weeks ago in Colorado. Bertuzzi's actions went way beyond what any player can even reasonably expect when they step on the ice. It was more than just a hockey incident. However, it was still not nearly as bad as the Marty McSorley stick-swinging attack on former Canucks bruiser Donald Brashear four years ago.

All of that being said, I think the NHL is guilty of a bit of a knee-jerk reaction to this case. Because of all media attention the play garnered south of the border the league went over the top in doling out the punishment for Bertuzzi's crime.

His suspension for 13 regular season games, plus up to 28 playoff games (and possibly more when they review his case in the summer) is more than anything the NHL has ever given for a similar incident.

The rest of the regular season, plus one round of the playoffs, would have been a fair and deserved penalty. Bertuzzi needs to be held accountable for his actions, but the suspension also has to fit the precedent that has been set.

HEY BERTUZZI: GROW UP!

BY RICHARD WARNICA

If you've ever caught a child doing something bad, something really bad, like hurting another kid or stealing from their parents' wallet, then you know how they react.

They cry. They scream that they're sorry. They promise never to do it again. And above all, they beseech you to believe that they really didn't mean it. They didn't mean to steal any money, didn't mean to hurt anybody. It was all a terrible mistake.

And that's okay. Kids do dumb things because they're kids, because they are not emotionally mature enough to always decide between right and wrong. Children make some bad choices because they do not and cannot always understand the consequences of their actions.

Anybody familiar with the above situation would have found Todd Bertuzzi's "apology" for the Steve Moore incident oddly familiar. Bertuzzi faced the media like a chastised child, with his overbearing, overprotective surrogate father, Canucks' general manager Brian Burke, hovering around, making sure no one gave poor Toddy a hard time.

Bertuzzi cried, he said he was sorry, not for breaking Moore's neck of course, but for "what happened." He took no real responsibility for the assault, urging everyone to believe that he didn't mean to hurt Moore, he was only trying to do the perfectly decent thing and get the smaller man to fight him. From there, things just went horribly wrong. No one's fault, of course. It was an accident, could have happened to anybody.

Unfortunately, "I didn't mean it" is not a valid excuse for an adult. When a 250 pound man punches a much smaller man in the back of the head, falls on him and then tries to punch him again, saying that he didn't mean to hurt anybody is a laughable excuse.

But not according to some. From the moment Bertuzzi attacked Moore, expressions of outrage and indignation in the press and the public have been matched by intimations by players, coaches, columnists and those surrounding the game that Todd Bertuzzi is the victim. That Bertuzzi is being persecuted for something that isn't really his fault. That "the nature of the game" and "the heat of the moment" are both at least as complicit in the whole situation as is poor old Todd. That in the end we can't blame Bertuzzi for breaking Steve Moore's neck because "boys will be boys."

Well, I'm sorry, but Todd Bertuzzi is not a boy. He is an adult. And as an adult, he is expected to understand and take responsibility for the consequences of his actions. Do the media, the fans and the NHL bear some responsibility for the incident, by explicitly condoning violence in hockey? Of course they do. Does that in any way lessen Bertuzzi's share of the load? No. Responsibility is not a zero sum game.

When society accepts responsibility for implicitly accepting violence against women, this in no way alleviates the individual responsibility of a man who assaults his wife. Similarly, the hockey world's creation and encouragement of a violent atmosphere in no way alleviates Todd Bertuzzi's responsibility for savaging Steve Moore.

Violence is violence is violence, whether it's in a bar, in the bedroom or on the ice. And being a man, or being a hockey player, or being drunk with booze or with emotion, is no excuse for it.

Don Cherry didn't hit Steve Moore. The NHL didn't hit Steve Moore. Todd Bertuzzi hit Steve Moore. And while the rest of them are all responsible for ensuring that this type of thing never happens again, only Todd Bertuzzi is responsible for paying for this particular incident.

Of course, the latter is much easier to do than is the former. Bertuzzi has been banned for at least the rest of this year and the playoffs, and the police are, quite rightly, investigating the assault. But will hockey take Bertuzzi's horrific blow as a sign that it should stop making and accepting excuses for the violence it its game? I doubt it.

After the holocaust and World War II, popular sentiment was that never again could humanity allow this to happen. At the time everyone assumed that what they meant by "this" was the systematic murder of an entire race of people. Unfortunately what "this" ended up meaning was that never again would Germany be allowed to exterminate the Jewish people.

Genocides and holocausts played out in Cambodia, Yugoslavia, Rwanda and elsewhere, with little interference or objection.

While I am not suggesting that what Todd Bertuzzi did is in any way comparable to the holocaust, I do suspect that the admonitions of the NHL and the media that this type of violence never happen again will end up being similarly restrictive.

Never again will Todd Bertuzzi punch Steve Moore in the back of the head and break his neck. But it won't be too long before someone else uses a stick or a fist to knock a colleague into the intensive care ward. And you can bet that when that does happen there will be more than one voice urging us to remember, "boys will be boys."

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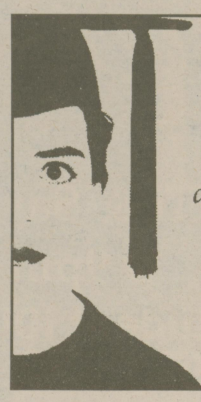
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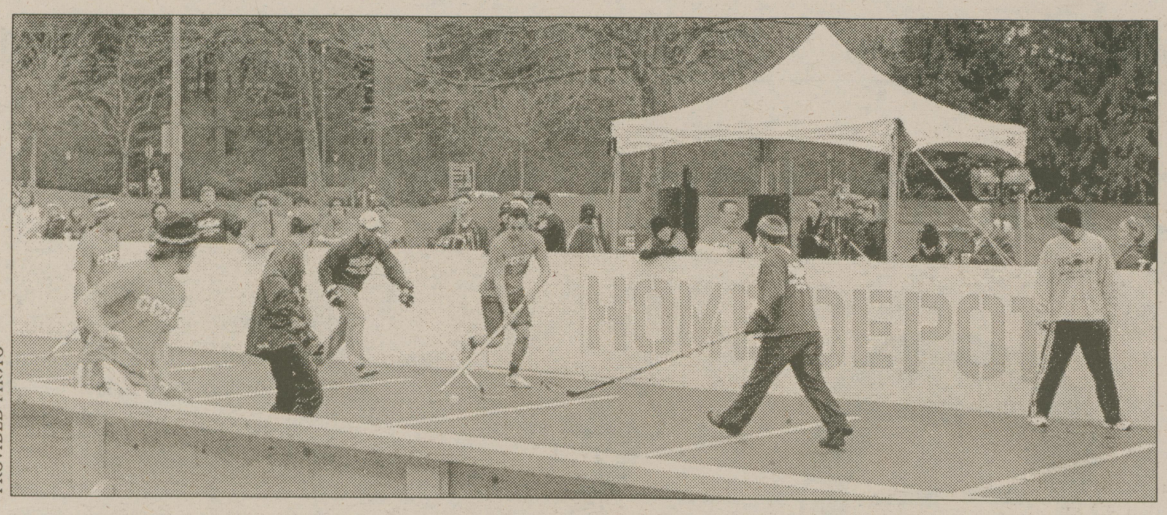


PROVIDED PHOTO

Late-night action at last year's 24-hour ball hockey game, held on by the Law Students' Society.

Twenty-four hours of ball hockey madness

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Lace up your shoes and grab a stick–it's time for the second annual 24-hour ball hockey game, put on by the Law Students' Society.

The event raised over $9,000 for B.C. Children's Hospital last year. Organizers hope to raise $15,000 this year. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Victoria Women's Transition House.

Over 75 students are working hard to make this year's game a success. Justin MacKinnon, the event's organizer, says he believes Transition House is an important charity to support. In addition to raising money, he also hopes the event will increase awareness of issues around spousal abuse.

"It's not as cuddly a cause as some others," said MacKinnon, "but the issue of spousal abuse should not be overlooked."

The ball hockey game will be complemented by a number of other events. According to MacKinnon, there will be bands, DJs and a breakdancing contest, along with a fashion show featuring clothes from the WIN store. "There will be a different event every hour," he said.

MacKinnon stresses that everyone is welcome to come out and play. "The quality of hockey is terrible," he said, "so don't be intimidated because of skill."

There is a cost to play, but everything else is free–although donations are both encouraged and appreciated.

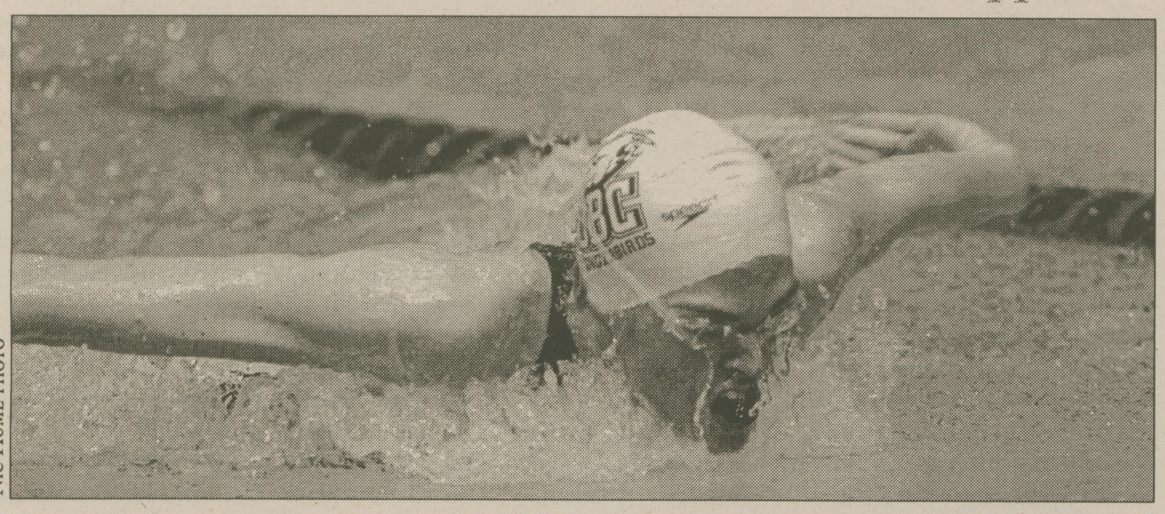
The law students are also holding a clothing drive for Transition House. Donations can be dropped off anytime during the event.

The event runs from noon Saturday, March 20 through noon Sunday, March 21.

The cost for to play is $10 for students and $250 for corporate teams.

Anyone interested in playing should contact MacKinnon at jmac@uvic.ca or 418-5700.

Faster than Flipper



NIC HUME PHOTO

Robert Miller, UBC, races at the Canada West championships in January. Although this is a picture of a UBC swimmer, it is a damn fine photo, and worthy of being the first in our series of standout sports photos.

Sports briefs

Track and Field

Men's relay team runs to All-Star finish

The members of the Vikes men 4x800-metre relay team were named Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) All-Canadians this week.

The award came on the heels of their silver-medal winning performance at the national championships over the weekend.

The fleet-footed team of Josh Henderson, Craig Babiuk, Glenn Saqui and Scott Kennedy were also named Canada West All-Stars in February.

Team wraps up season

The men's and women's track and field team competed at the national championships held in Ontario this past week.

The team finished in 16th place, 104.5 points behind the winners, the University of Saskatchewan.

Highlights of the meet included a bronze medal won by Josh Henderson in the 600-metre event and a silver medal taken by the men's 4x800-metre relay team.

Rowing

Women lose close race to Oregon

The women's rowing team started strong against the Oregon State University Beavers before losing the event 4–1.

The Vikes won the first event, the varsity fours, then fell behind the Beavers in the remaining four races.

Next action will be against rivals UBC in the Brown Cup Challenge, set to go March 27 on the Gorge Waterway.

Rugby

Men topple Meraloma

The men's Vikes took down Meraloma in B.C. Premier League action last week.

The team got off to a quick start and never looked back, finishing the game with an 11-point lead. The game ended with a score of 37–26.

Eddie Ferris was the top-scoring Vike, with a try, two conversions and a penalty kick.

The Vikes take to the field again this weekend, battling rivals Pacific Pride. Game time is 3 p.m. March 20 at the Velox Valhallians field.

Golf

Women take fifth at California tourney

After two days and 36 holes, the women's golf team finished in fifth place at the Chico State Golf Invitational last week.

Vikes rookie Krystal Kay was the top finisher for the team, with a score of 169. Kay finished in 15th place overall.

The team is now preparing for the Northwest College Championship, taking place March 21–23 in Blaine, WA.

Men finish in sixth place

The men's golf team wound up in sixth place at the California State University Monterey Bay Otter Invitational in Seaside, CA.

With a total score of 907, the team was 22 shots behind the leaders, the Johnson and Wales University of Florida.

Todd Halpen was the top-placed Vike. Halpen finished tied for fourth place overall, with scores of 70, 71 and 73 in through the three rounds of play.

Basketball

Vikes honoured by CIS

Two players on women's basketball team were honoured by the CIS at their annual All-Canadian banquet.

Dani Everitt, a fifth-year guard, was named to the first All-Canadian team.

Krystal O'Byrne, a fifth-year veteran with the Vikes, won the Sylvia Sweeney-TSN Award. The award goes to an athlete who exhibits outstanding achievement in basketball, academics and community involvement.

O'Byrne will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a further goal of pursuing a career in medicine. She will finish this year with a grade point average above 8.33 out of 9.

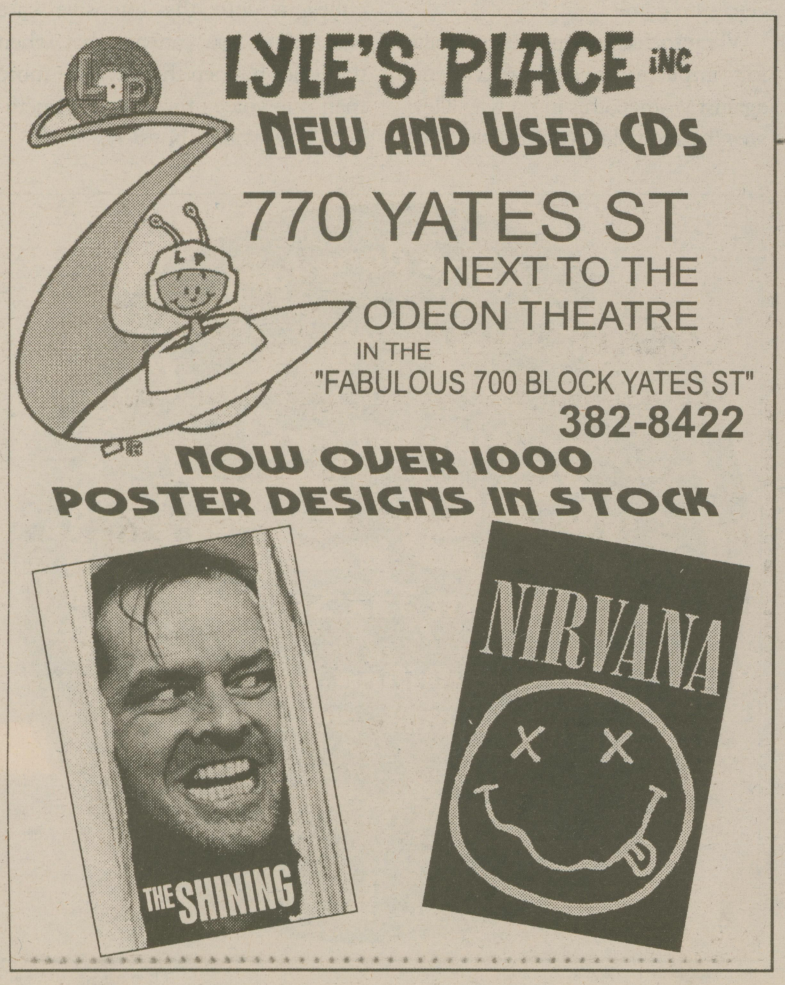
As a volunteer with the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health in Victoria, O'Byrne participates in the Family Friend program each week.

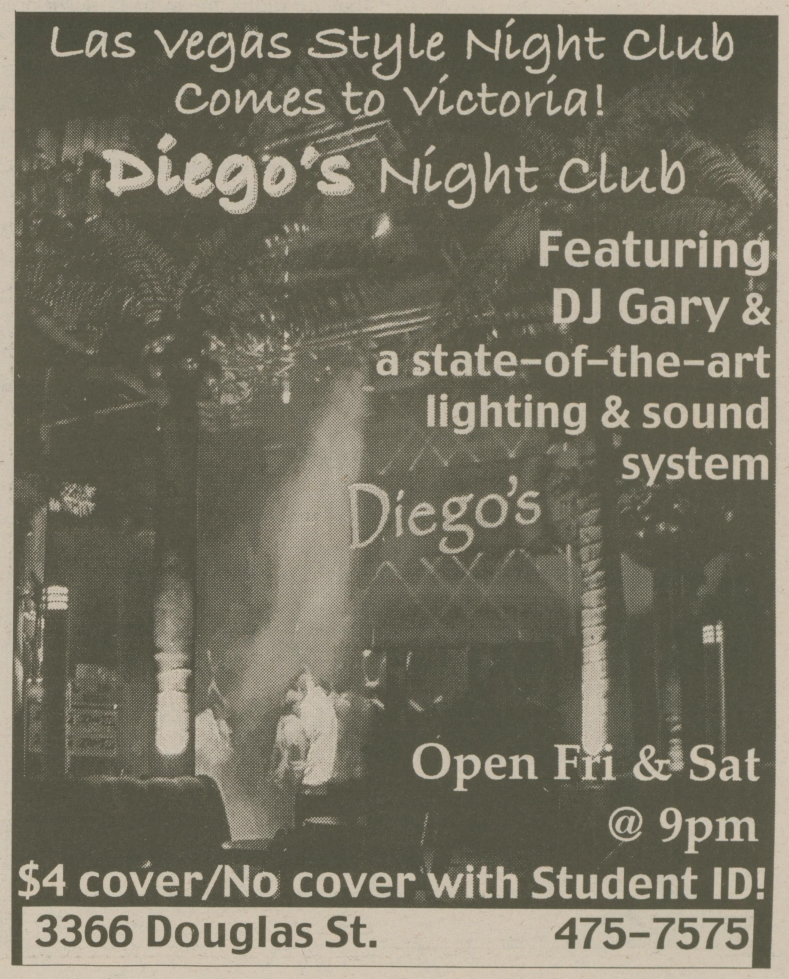
She also gives her time to the Centre's Learn to Swim program, where she joins special needs children in the pool, and is actively involved in fundraising for Cancer Research through the Journey of Hope.

O'Bryne has served on the university's Varsity Council each of the five years she has been a student and for the past three has served as the Council's President.

Last year, she was named to UVic's Blue and Gold Circle and won the Vikes Chancellors award for her contribution to her team both on and off the court.

–Bryna Hallam





Dumber than Bertuzzi? Do tell.

Five other boneheads from the world of professional sports

by Luke Lin

Ten days have passed since Todd Bertuzzi's infamous sucker punch on Colorado Avalanche forward Steve Moore. Although it's difficult to ignore the severity of Bertuzzi's act, the Canucks' behemoth forward isn't the first athlete or sports figure to stir headlines for his bonehead actions.

In an attempt to cure the Bertuzzi/Moore hangover, let's examine some of the other boneheads from the sporting world over the last 12 months (in no particular order).

Kobe Bryant,
Los Angeles Lakers, NBA

Kobe Bryant makes the list not for his actions on the basketball court, but for his despicable behaviour off of it. The 25-year-old superstar admits to committing adultery with a 19-year-old hotel staffer last summer at a resort in Edwards, Colorado, but denies the police charge that he raped her.

Bryant steadfastly maintains his innocence, but even if cleared of all charges, he has damaged his "good guy" image to the point where scrub writers such as yours truly can legitimately label him a bonehead.

Days after his remorseful news conference, Bryant reportedly purchased a $4 million ring for his wife Vanessa. Apparently, money can buy love–or more appropriately, forgiveness.

Vijay Singh,
PGA Golfer

Unfortunately for Vijay Singh, no amount of cash will erase his ignorant remarks about female golfer Annika Sorenstam.

Speaking about Sorenstam's decision to accept an invitation to a PGA event last year, Singh said, "What is she going to prove by playing? It's ridiculous." He added, "She's the best woman golfer in the world, and I want to emphasize woman."

Singh's belief that Sorenstam's participation was motivated strictly by publicity is bunk. She just wanted to test her skills against the best players in the world. And what's wrong with that? It's no different from underclassmen in U.S. colleges leaving school early to enter the NBA or NFL. They think they're ready for the challenge and so did Sorenstam.

Though she ultimately missed the final cut after a poor second round, Sorenstam still demonstrated enough skill to hang with the boys. Her appearance in the tournament also spiked interest in a moribund sport that has slowly seen its ratings decline since the height of Tiger Woods' popularity. Too bad Singh was too much of a bonehead to realize the positive impact Sorenstam would create on the sport that made him rich.

The Entire
Boston Red Sox organization,
MLB

The New York Yankees acquisition of all-star Alex Rodriguez a month ago was sick. Will someone please pass me the puke bucket?

But Yankees' owner George Steinbrenner, who has poured more money into his starting lineup than George Bush has into Iraq, isn't the only party to blame.

The Boston Red Sox let a chance to pick the 28-year-old shortstop up slip through their fingers. For dropping the ball in the Rodriguez sweepstakes, the entire Boston Red Sox organization earns a spot on our dubious list of boneheads.

In December, the Sox thought they had a deal in place to acquire the All-Star from the Texas Rangers. But the deal fell through when owner John Henry refused to pay all of Rodriguez' enormous salary. Once the deal was dead, the Yankees swooped in to add Rodriguez to their cast of all-stars, slamming the coffin door on every other team's chances of winning the World Series this year.

Joe "Hollywood" Horn,
New Orleans Saints, NFL

In a story not quite as vile as the Yankees yearly treasure hunt, New Orleans Saints' receiver Joe Horn took touchdown celebrations to a new low in the NFL last season.

After scoring a TD against the Atlanta Falcons in October, the 32-year-old pretended to machine gun two teammates, who playfully fell to the ground in the end zone. Horn's nickname may be "Hollywood," but his boneheaded actions won't be receiving any Oscars this year.

Maybe he consulted with Steven Spielberg after the Atlanta debacle, because his stunt against the New York Giants a few weeks later was far more amusing. Horn, after grabbing his second of four TDs on the day, was handed a cell-phone teammate Michael Lewis had retrieved from under the padding used to protect the goal post.

While still wearing his helmet, Horn punched in numbers, put the phone to the ear-hole and spoke into it for several seconds.

The two boneheads had stealthily concealed the phone before kickoff.

However, Horn's clever exhibition wasn't without its flaws. He was chastised by his coach, and the league fined him $30,000.

That must have been quite the long distance phone call.

Jim Harrick,
University of Georgia, NCAA

Horn's phone call, however, pales in comparison to the antics of former University of Georgia men's basketball coach Jim Harrick.

Harrick was suspended last year after a university investigation proved that three of his players took a phony physical education class taught by his son, Jim Harrick Jr. Harrick Jr. was fired and his father eventually resigned.

The scandal came out when former team member Tony Cole, who was kicked off the team, claimed that Harrick and his son, an assistant coach, paid his bills, did his school work, and taught the sham course. According to Cole, he received an "A" without ever attending the class.

The following are actual examples of the mind-numbing questions that Georgia athletes were asked in Harrick Jr's class:

How many points does a 3-point field goal count for in a basketball game?

What basic colour are the uniforms the Georgia Bulldogs wear in home games?

How many goals are on a basketball court?

I sure hope the athletes didn't break out in hives from all the long nights studying. Ironically, Harrick and his son could have avoided making our bonehead list if they hadn't reneged on their promise to reinstate Cole. The loose-lipped player was booted off the team after repeated violations of the team's code of conduct. It's likely that Cole wouldn't have said anything if the Harricks had just let him play ball.

The wonderful world of sports just wouldn't be as exciting if it weren't for these boneheads. So please boys, keep up the good work.

Kick'er

Nic Hume photo

Vikes #15 Adam Roe takes a swipe at the ball during a game against Western Washington University, March 6, 2004.

Number two in the standout sports photo series. Over the next month, we will be featuring a number of sports photos that we feel are fantastic shots. Enjoy!

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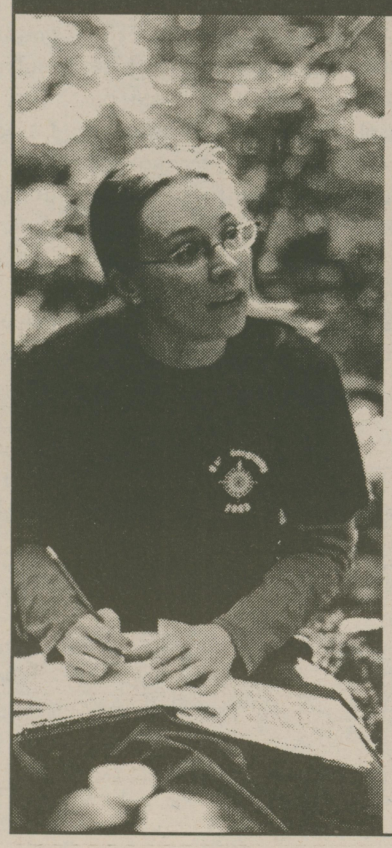

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Free admission. Open to general public.
University of Victoria, Murray and Anne Fraser Building (formerly the Begbie building) – Room 158
http://ilc.law.uvic.ca/conference
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Islam Awareness Week is an annual event that is hosted by all MSAs' across North America. During IAW, various activities are held in order to creat more awareness of Islamic issues on university campuses. Our theme this year is "God's Message to Muhammad" which focuses on Muhammad the Prophet and his message to mankind. Who was Muhammad? What was his message? Are his teachings different than Moses and Jesus? Why is Islam equated with terrorism?
Please come out to this event and get to know Muslims and know more about their faith. Free brochures and books, coffee and food will be given out.
Events March 17–19, 2004 Student Union Building, Michèle Pujol Room, UVic.
~ Lectures ~
Wednesday, March 17, 2004 1–2 p.m. **Biography of Prophet Muhammad**.
Thursday, March 18, 2004 1–2 p.m. **One Message: Moses, Jesus & Muhammad**.
Friday, March 19, 2004 2:30–3:30 p.m. **Islam & Terrorism**.
Our renowned guest speaker this year is Chaplain Mutahhir Sabree. Chaplain Mutahhir Sabree is one of two full-time Muslim Chaplains for the South Carolina Department of Corrections, serving in this capacity since 1966. After giving up an aspiring career as a professional Jazz Bassist, he became as Muslim in 1976. Since then, he has been active in Islamic Affairs, and has served as an Imaan and Muslim Chaplain in a number of organizations. He is currently enrolled as a student of the American Open University, seeking a degree in Islamic and Arabic Studies. He is a graduate of Trinity College of Hartford, CT with a B.A. in International Studies. He originally hails from Washington, DC and currently resides in Columbia, SC where he serves as the Islamic Teachings Coordinator of the Islamic Center of Columbia.

Interested in gaining RESEARCH EXPERIENCE? Applied student research training projects that focus on child and adolescent health and well-being are now available. Projects are submitted by community agencies. Students complete research projects for experience, course credit and a $200 stipend. Please contact Leah Wilson at cormrc@uvic.ca or 721-7843.
www.youth.society.uvic.ca.

Island Food Security Presentation – March 23 With food activist and researcher Emily McNair. 5 p.m. in UVic's Student Union Building, room B028. Emily has recently conducted a food security assessment addressing production and distribution as well as hunger and malnutrition in our region. Join us for this informative presentation as well as a discussion on accessing healthy, affordable, local food. This workshop is completely free. For more information email agriculture@vipirg.ca or call 721-8629.

April 1st no fooling breakfast celebration. All UVic students with children are invited April 1 7:30-8:30 a.m. to join us as celebrate and recognize. Come to the big tent outside the UVic Family Centre on Lam Circle for treat prizes and suprises. Bring the kids if you can and drop in before school for breakfast (hot dogs and ice cream for breakfast anyone). For more info call 472-4062. Sponsored by the UVic Family Centre and the UVic Alumni Association.

Off campus

UVic Red Cross Club presents Night of 1,000 Dinners. Friday, March 26, 2004, 6:30pm. Come bring a potluck dish and donation of $5+ and help support land mine awareness. There will be music, a speaker, games and videos . . . don't forget food. All are welcome . . . tell your friends.
More info: redcross@uvic.ca.

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE March 24th, 7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Parish 4049 Gordon Head Road. All students welcome.

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Accommodations

Two rooms for rent in a 4 bedroom house on Princess Street by the Crystal Pool. High ceilings, spacious, great downtown location and ONLY $250 A MONTH! Dishwasher, washer/dryer, huge backyard garden. Room available for April 1st and May 1st. Call 388-7515.

4 month summer sublet near Quadra & Mackenzie. 1 BDRM basement apartment. Fully furnished rooms & fully equiped kitchen. Incl. 2 futon beds. Prefer cat-friendly & family friendly mature undergrad or grad student (toddlers upstairs & landlord's excellent cat comes to visit). Close to buses, shopping, groceries, mail. 625/mo. Damage deposit, first & last mo.'s rent. All inclusive. Tenant arranges own phone service. Call Marty @ 744-5876 or e-mail mwaldman@uvic.ca.

Housesitters Available. Responsible couple with excellent references is available to look after your home while you are away. We are pet and plant friendly. Short or long term commitment. Phone: 480-1950.

Professor seeks furnished summer (May 1–August 31) accomadation in James Bay, Farifield, or Oak Bay. Sublet or housesit okay. Quiet nonsmoker. No basements. Parking desired. Dr. David Heinimann, Northwest College, 250-638-5437.

Announcements

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Pizza Party, Catholic Student Association, Sunday March 28, 5 p.m., Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Road). Students of all ages welcome to take part.

March 9–23, UVic Red Cross Club is having a Food and Clothing Drive. Please bring non-perishable food and your unwanted clothes to the drop offs: MacLaurin, McKinnon, Clearihue (comp. lab), SUB (resource centre) and the University Centre. Come help support your local community. More info: redcross@uvic.ca.

Wanna learn about POT? The Hempology 101 club is hosting their 5th annual Cannabis Convention. Lots of guest speakers! Lots of fun! Sunday March 14 in the Young building at Camosun College, 1–4 p.m.
www.hempology.com.

The Victoria Shakespeare Society will be holding auditions for the summer festival's performances of *As You Like It* directed by Libby Mason and *Love's Labour's Lost* directed by Chris Moss March 20 and 21. Auditions by appointment only 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Denise at 995-5958 or e-mail theatrepeople@hotmail.com to book an audition. All auditions will be held in room A169 MacLaurin Building, UVic. Bring résumé and headshot and prepare one song (bring sheet music) and two contrasting Shakespeare monologues. If interested in backstage/crew positions, please specify when booking appointment.

ACTIVIST VIDEO NIGHT presents "The Greening of Cuba." Cuban framers work to reinvent a sustainable agriculture based on ecological principles and local knowledge rather than imported corporate technology. We'll be showing "Water Water Everywhere . . . ?" which asks whether water is a human right or a corporate commodity to be bought, sold . . . or withheld. 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, Camosun College (Lansdowne), Fisher Building Theatre (room 100), FREE, info. – 595-3991.

For rent

OLD WINERY SELF-STORAGE close to university. Secure indoor lockers. Student discount with this ad. 3952 Quadra St., 727-2311.

For sale

Fluffy futon, queen size, only used 6 mo., $100, obo. 381-2225.

LEAVING TOWN! MUST SELL STUFF!! FOR SALE: 1990 Toyota Corolla LE (5 sp., cruise, CD, $3,700 o.b.o.) – Furniture: couch, chair, loveseat and more. NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED!! Call Greg or Patrick, 383-9590.

Mount Washington lift tickets & equipment rental coupons for sale. Expires May 2004. 595-1684.

For hire

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Do you want your thesis/paper to look its best, polished and professional? Reasonable rates. Phone Suzanne at 391-4878 for an estimate. www.dssolutions.bc.ca/editing.html.

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Hey you

You're right, time is short: those ~ 3 yrs. went by fast. But we've still got a couple of weeks, then maybe we'll have all the time (& daffodils) you could ever want. . . If I ever weirded you out before it's just that I can never think of what to say. Sorry, sorry if I can't take my eyes off you. . . I just hope I see you again before you get on with your life & marry some other guy, or chain yourself to a tree or whatever you're planning. . . .

Dandelion. I like the look of your hub. But I think you need to be lubricated. Want to go for another ride? Bender.

The tourists are coming! The tourists are coming! Run for your lives!

For my darling J.–you may want to cuddle up to Steve Jobs and George Lucas, but I still love you and your cheatin' heart. And your wang. Chutch.

Goons goons, how do I goon the goon goon goon? PS: Hulkamanics, can you show some Hulkamaincerocity?

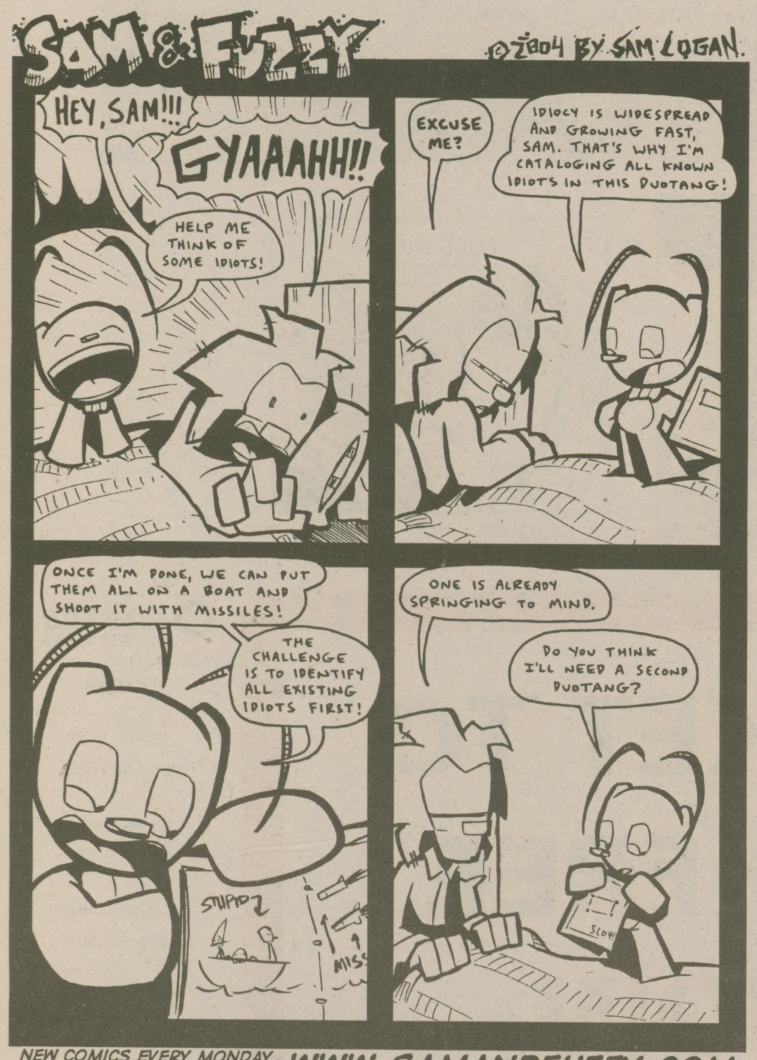
I used to say thank you to bus drivers. Now I only thank the ones that aren't pricks. I don't have to say thank you very much these days.

Hey you! Large, angry woman in the food place by the pyramid. Smile more or stop spreading your hate. Peope might be less rude to you if you do.

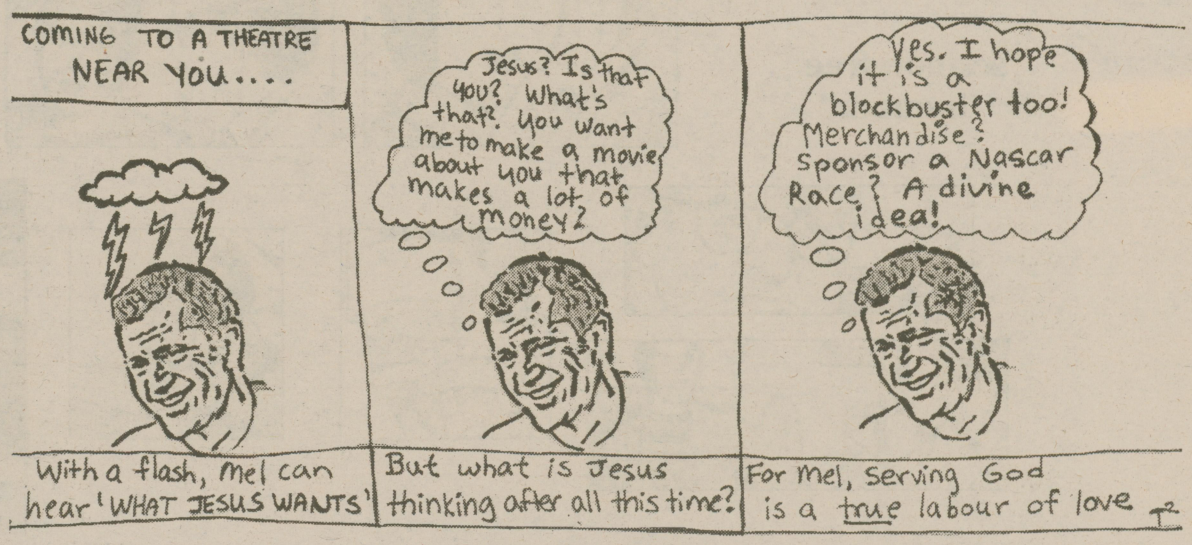
Listen to Electric Milk, Wednesdays at midnight on CFUV, 101.9 FM. We have monkeys. Lots of monkeys.

Billboard Rates:

Students and Clubs – $2/issue
Non-Students – $2/line
Businesses – $5.50/line for first 3 lines
+ $2/extra line
Hey you! – free

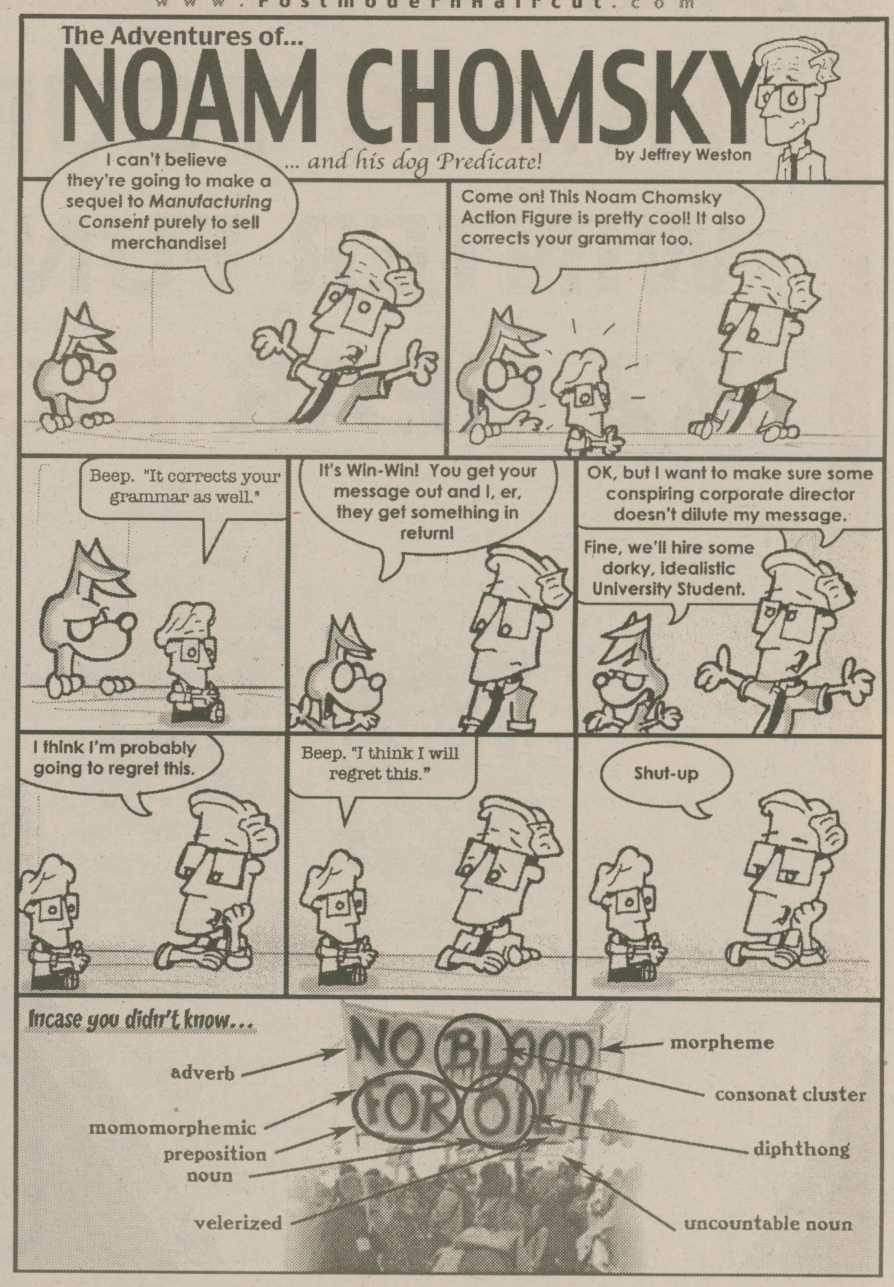

SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN
HEY, SAM!!!
GYAAAHH!!
HELP ME THINK OF SOME IDIOTS!
EXCUSE ME?
IDIOCY IS WIDESPREAD AND GROWING FAST, SAM. THAT'S WHY I'M CATALOGING ALL KNOWN IDIOTS IN THIS DUOTANG!
ONCE I'M DONE, WE CAN PUT THEM ALL ON A BOAT AND SHOOT IT WITH MISSILES!
THE CHALLENGE IS TO IDENTIFY ALL EXISTING IDIOTS FIRST!
ONE IS ALREADY SPRINGING TO MIND.
DO YOU THINK I'LL NEED A SECOND DUOTANG?
STUPID?
SLOW

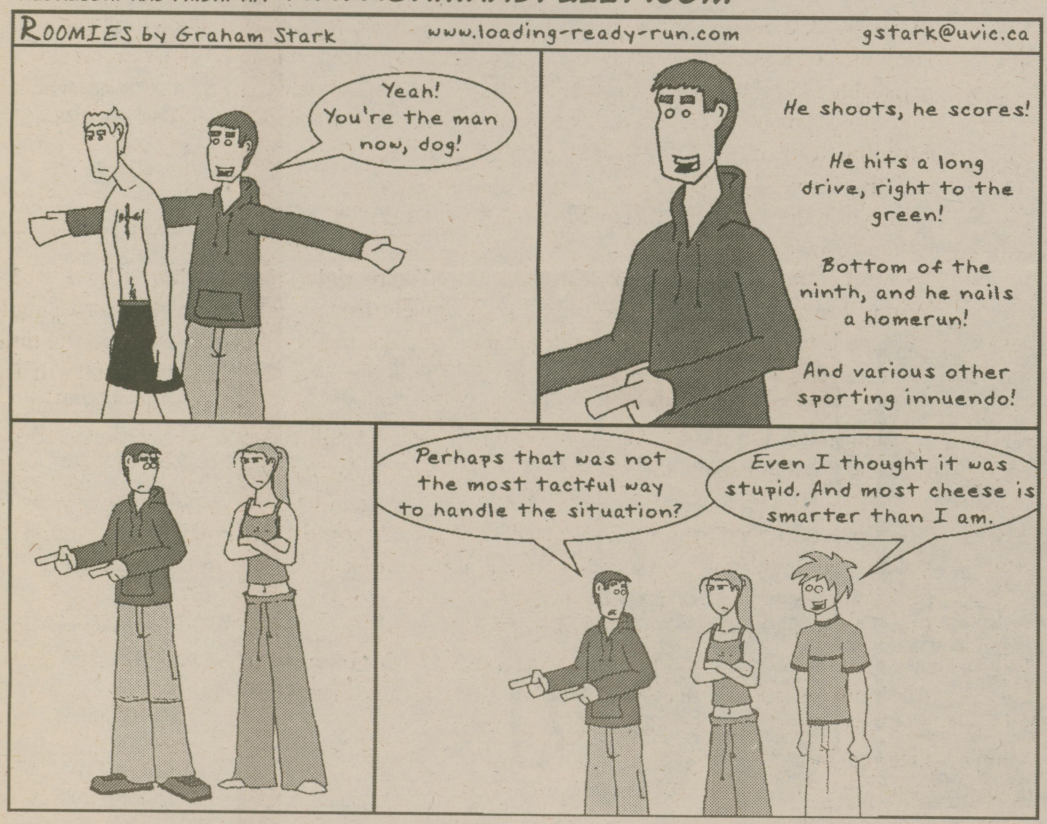
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM

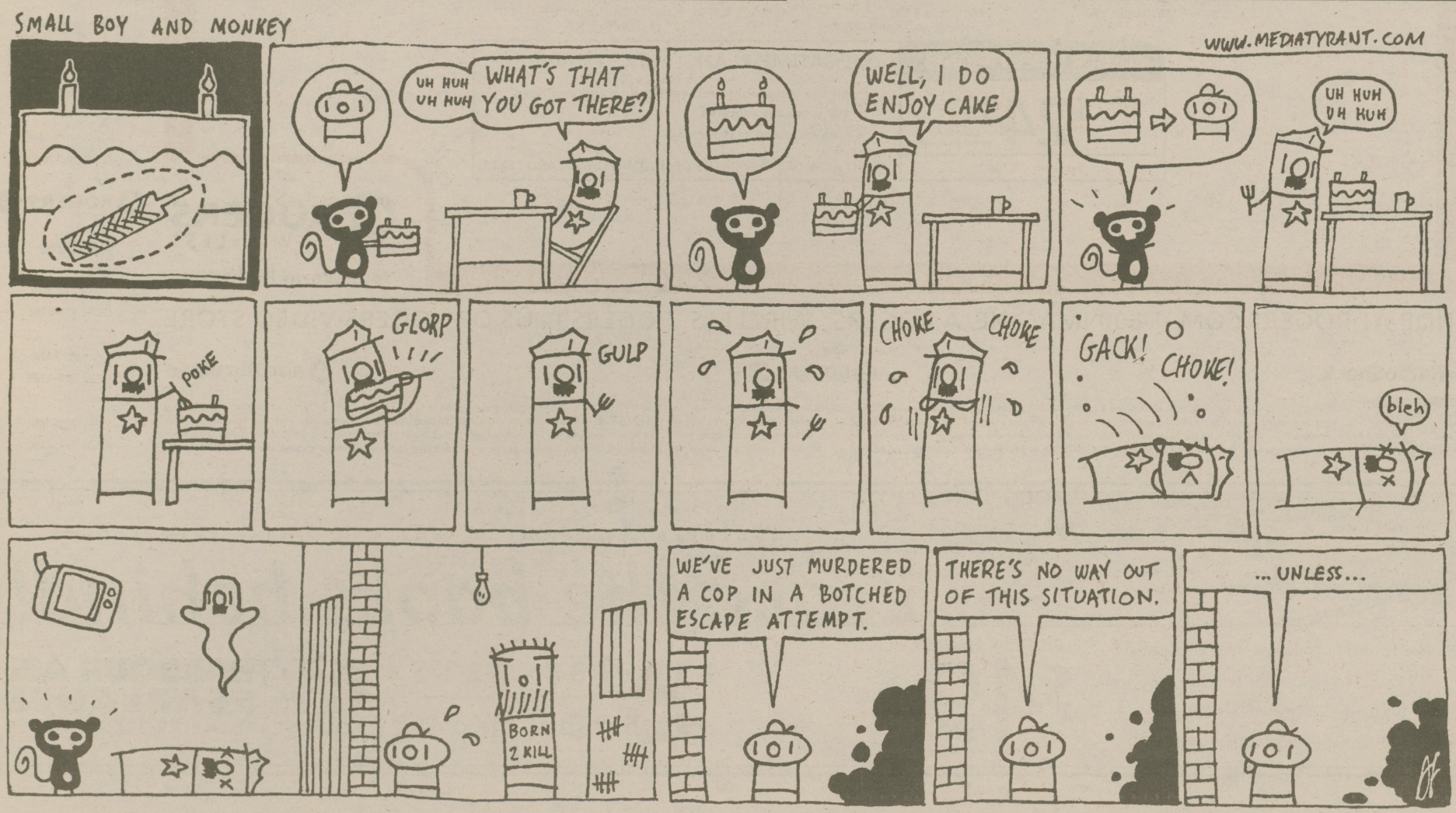

COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU....
With a flash, Mel can hear 'WHAT JESUS WANTS'
Jesus? Is that you? What's that? You want me to make a movie about you that makes a lot of money?
But what is Jesus thinking after all this time?
Yes. I hope it is a blockbuster too! Merchandise? Sponsor a Nascar Race? A divine idea!
For Mel, serving God is a true labour of love

Christel Bodenbender

www.PostmodernHaircut.com

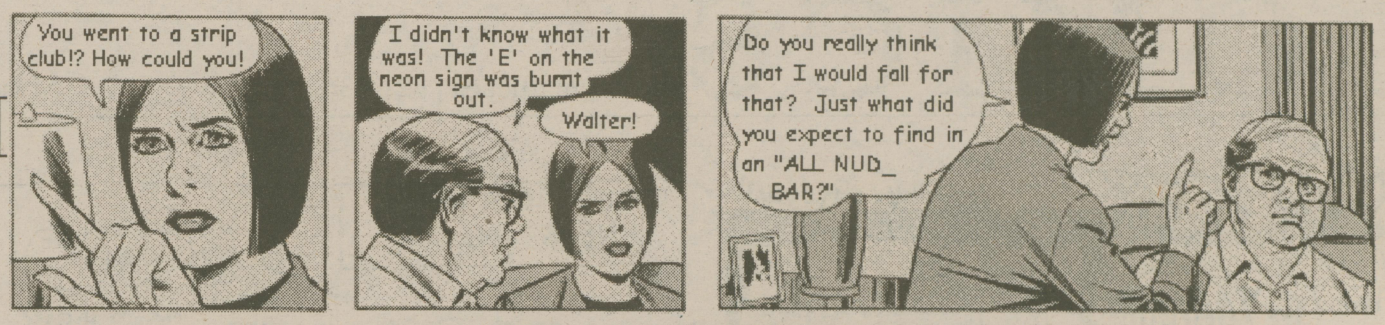

The Adventures of...
NOAM CHOMSKY
... and his dog Predicate!
by Jeffrey Weston
I can't believe they're going to make a sequel to Manufacturing Consent purely to sell merchandise!
Come on! This Noam Chomsky Action Figure is pretty cool! It also corrects your grammar too.
Beep. "It corrects your grammar as well."
It's Win-Win! You get your message out and I, er, they get something in return!
OK, but I want to make sure some conspiring corporate director doesn't dilute my message.
Fine, we'll hire some dorky, idealistic University Student.
I think I'm probably going to regret this.
Beep. "I think I will regret this."
Shut-up
Incase you didn't know...
adverb
momomorphemic
preposition
noun
velerized
NO BLOOD FOR OIL
morpheme
consonat cluster
diphthong
uncountable noun


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Yeah! You're the man now, dog!
He shoots, he scores!
He hits a long drive, right to the green!
Bottom of the ninth, and he nails a homerun!
And various other sporting innuendo!
Perhaps that was not the most tactful way to handle the situation?
Even I thought it was stupid. And most cheese is smarter than I am.



DISCE PATI

"sermon-free humour"


You went to a strip club!? How could you!
I didn't know what it was! The 'E' on the neon sign was burnt out.
Walter!
Do you really think that I would fall for that? Just what did you expect to find in an "ALL NUD_ BAR?"
PURE NUD.

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